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No. 21

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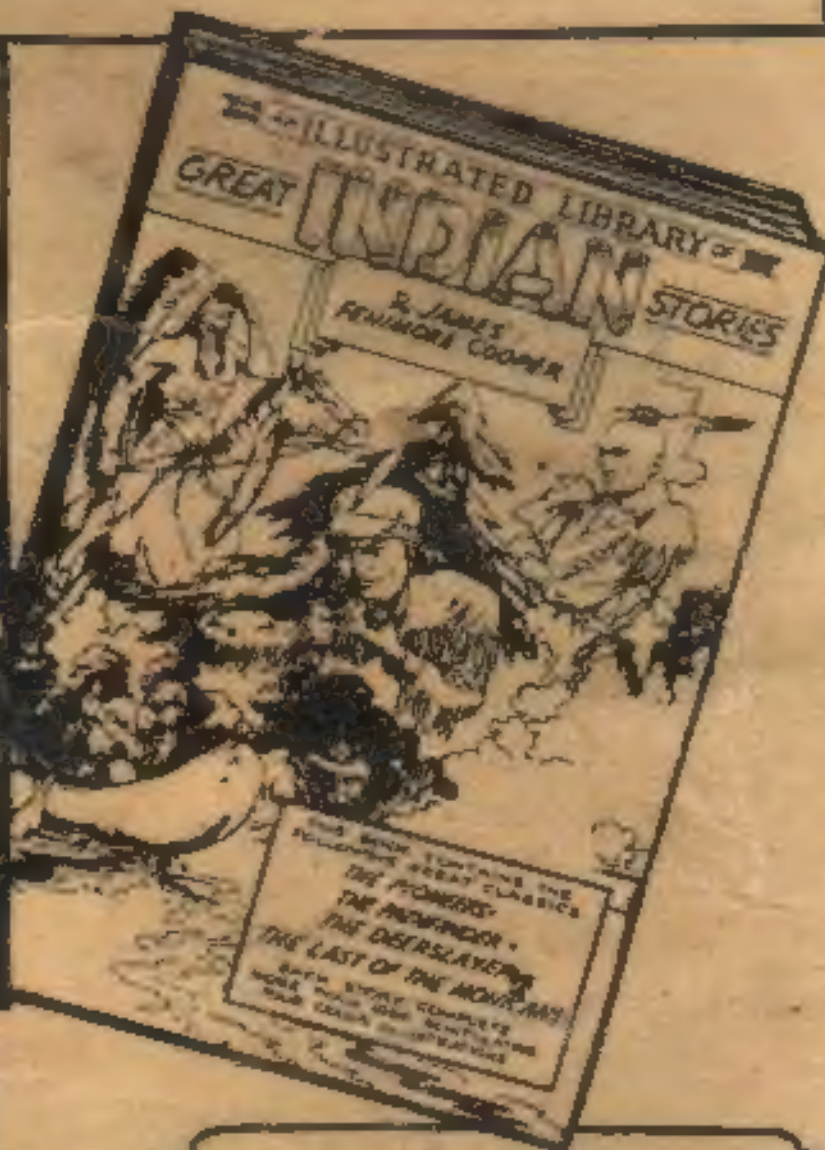
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SHERLOCK HOLMES

"The Sign of the

by ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

"



MURDER STALKED THROUGH THE
FOG-BOUND STREETS OF LONDON!
IT CLAIMED ITS VICTIM AND
MOVED ON! THERE REMAINED
ONLY THE CALLING CARD OF
DEATH . . . THE SIGN OF THE FOUR!



Illustrated by
ZANSKY

TWO TWENTY ONE BAKER STREET WAS
PEACEFUL AND SERENE UNTIL...

I am looking for
Mr. Sherlock
Holmes. I need help!

This is Mr. Holmes
and I am Dr.
Watson! . . . Your
obedient servant!

You will find this
chair comfortable.

This chair is softer!
Sit here, my dear!

I am Mary Morstan.
My employer, Mrs. Forrester
said you could help me as
you once helped her.

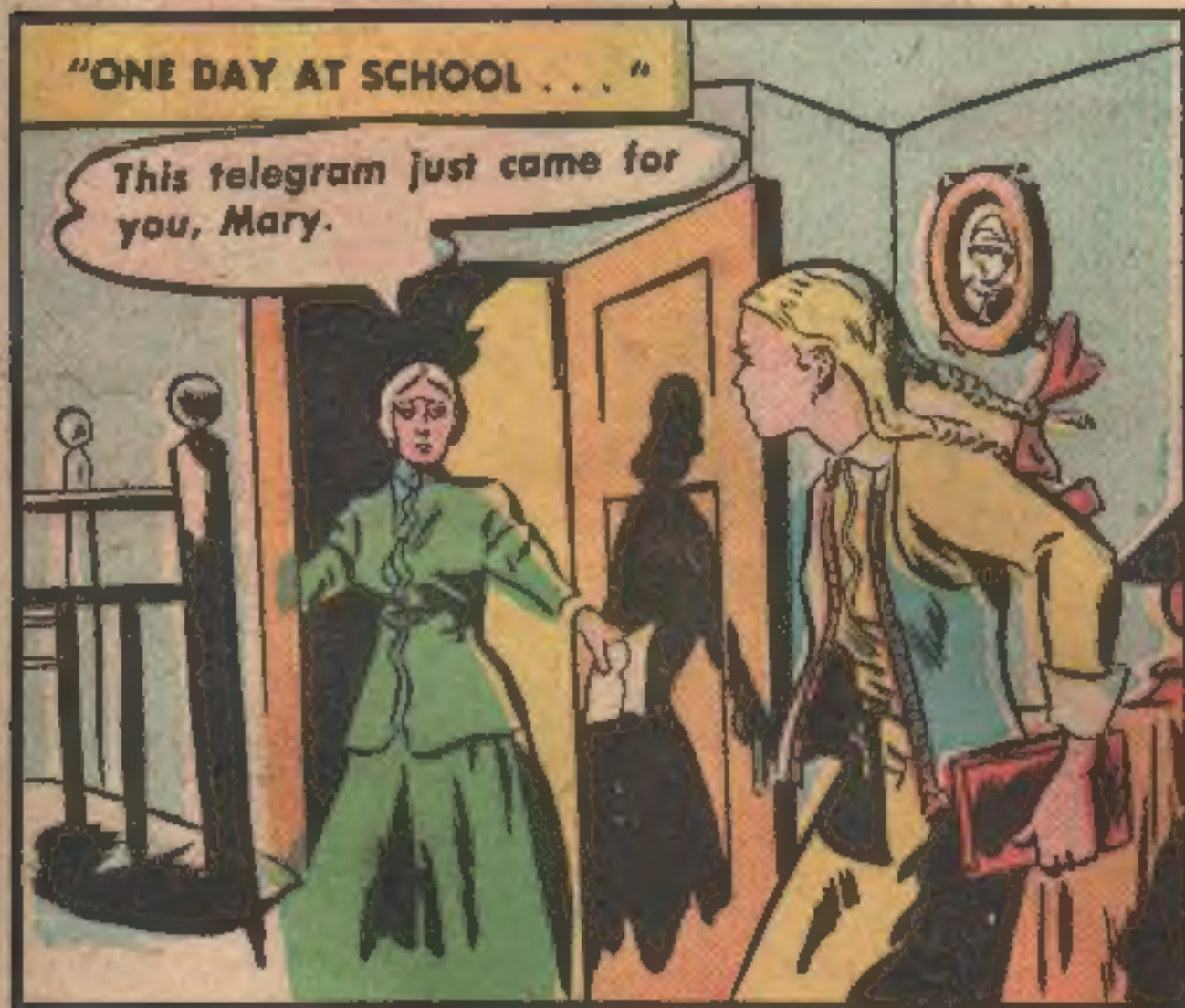
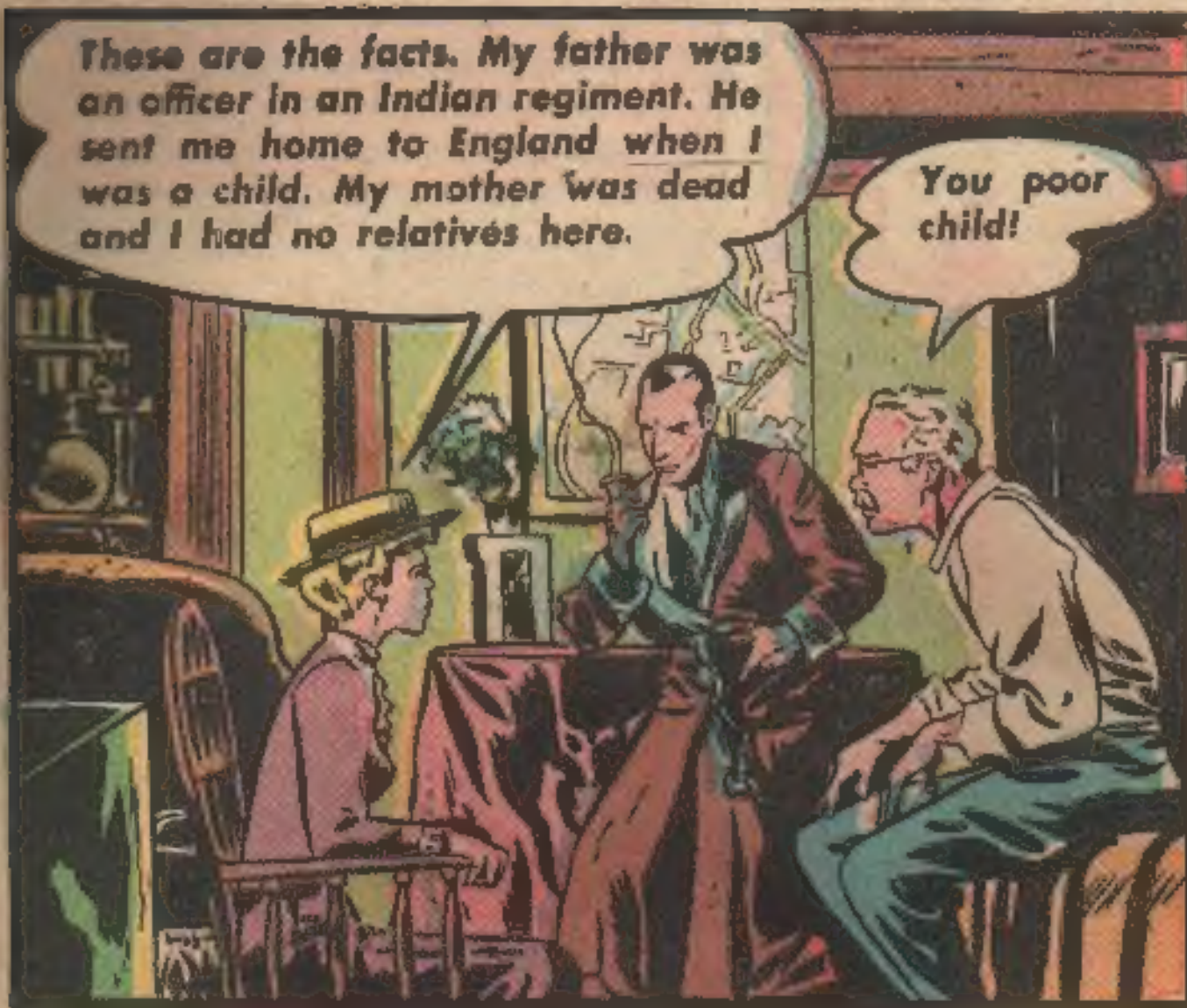
I remember the
Forrester affair. It was
a simple case.

It wasn't simple at all. I was
struggling with Professor
Moriarty on the edge of a cliff!
He lifted me in the air! Just as I
began to fall, Holmes

Quiet, Watson! I
want to hear
Miss Morstan's
story!

Mine is a strange story! I
desperately need your aid!

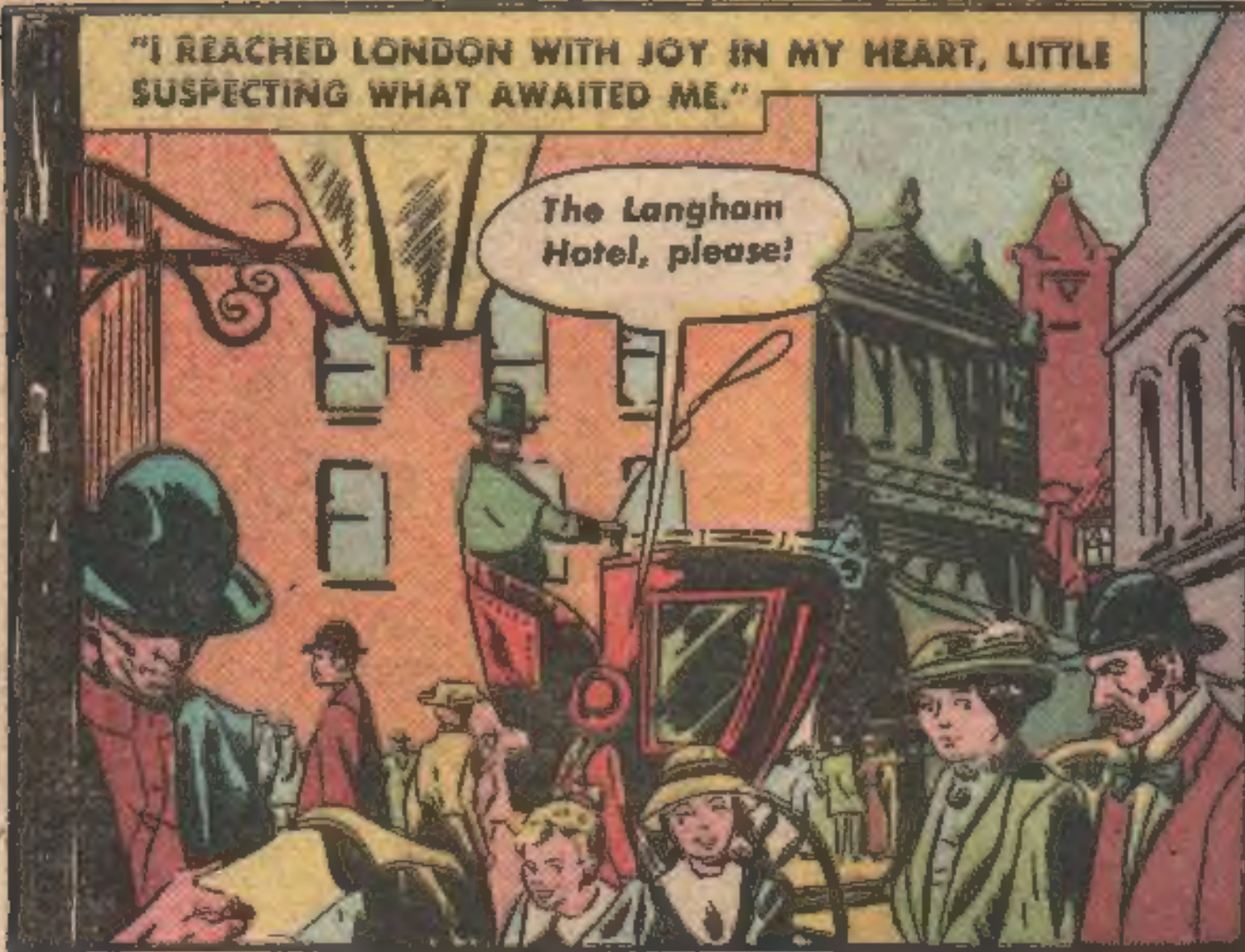
State your
case!



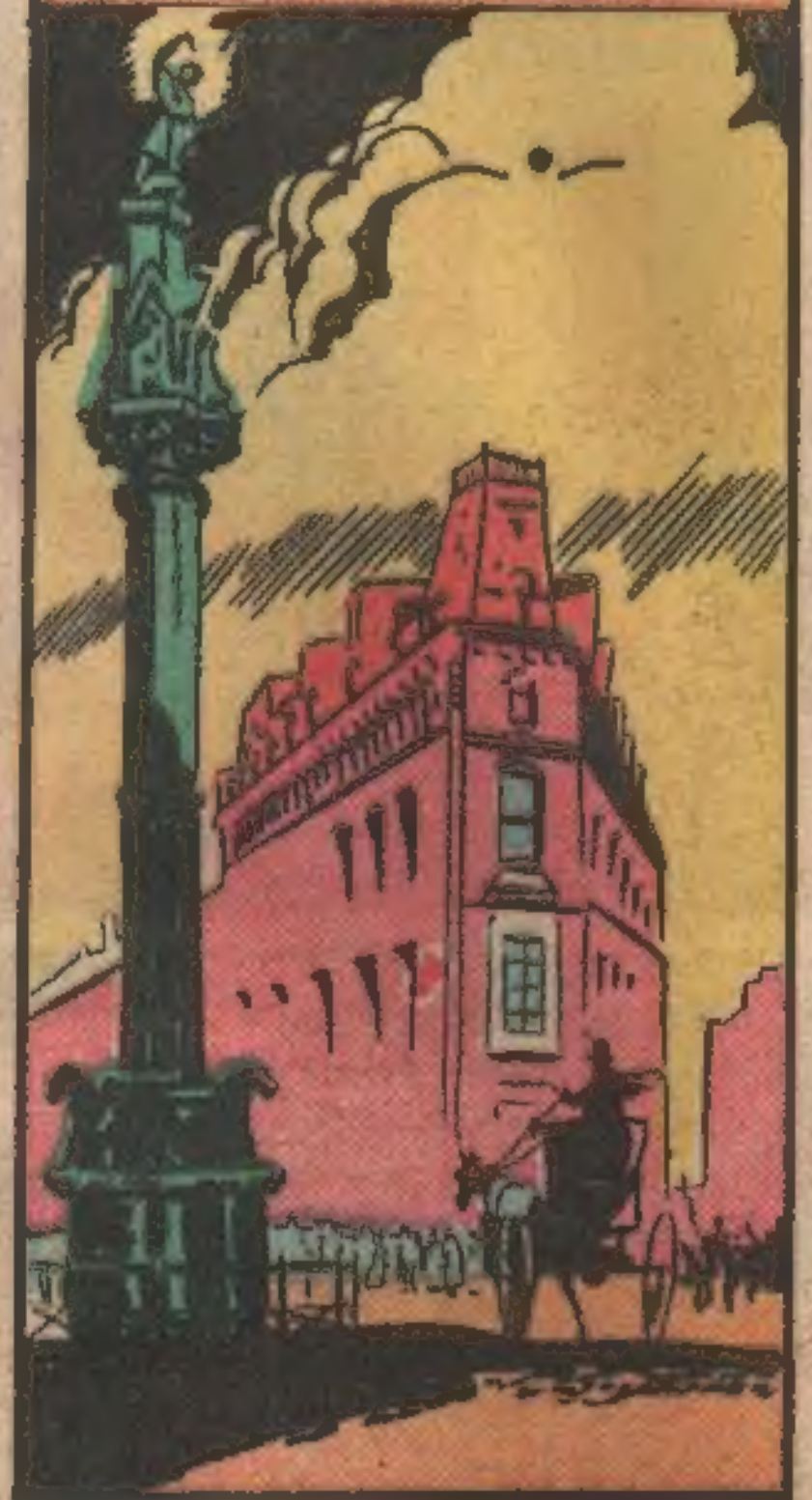
SHERLOCK HOLMES

"I REACHED LONDON WITH JOY IN MY HEART, LITTLE SUSPECTING WHAT AWAITED ME."

The Langham Hotel, please!



"THE STREETS WERE BRIGHT AND GAY. THERE WAS NO HINT OF APPROACHING DISASTER!"



"UPON ARRIVING AT THE HOTEL, I WENT STRAIGHT TO THE DESK."

Captain Morstan's room, please! I'm his daughter.

Yes, Miss Morstan, I see that your father is registered here



... But he went out last night and hasn't come back as yet! You may wait for him in his room.

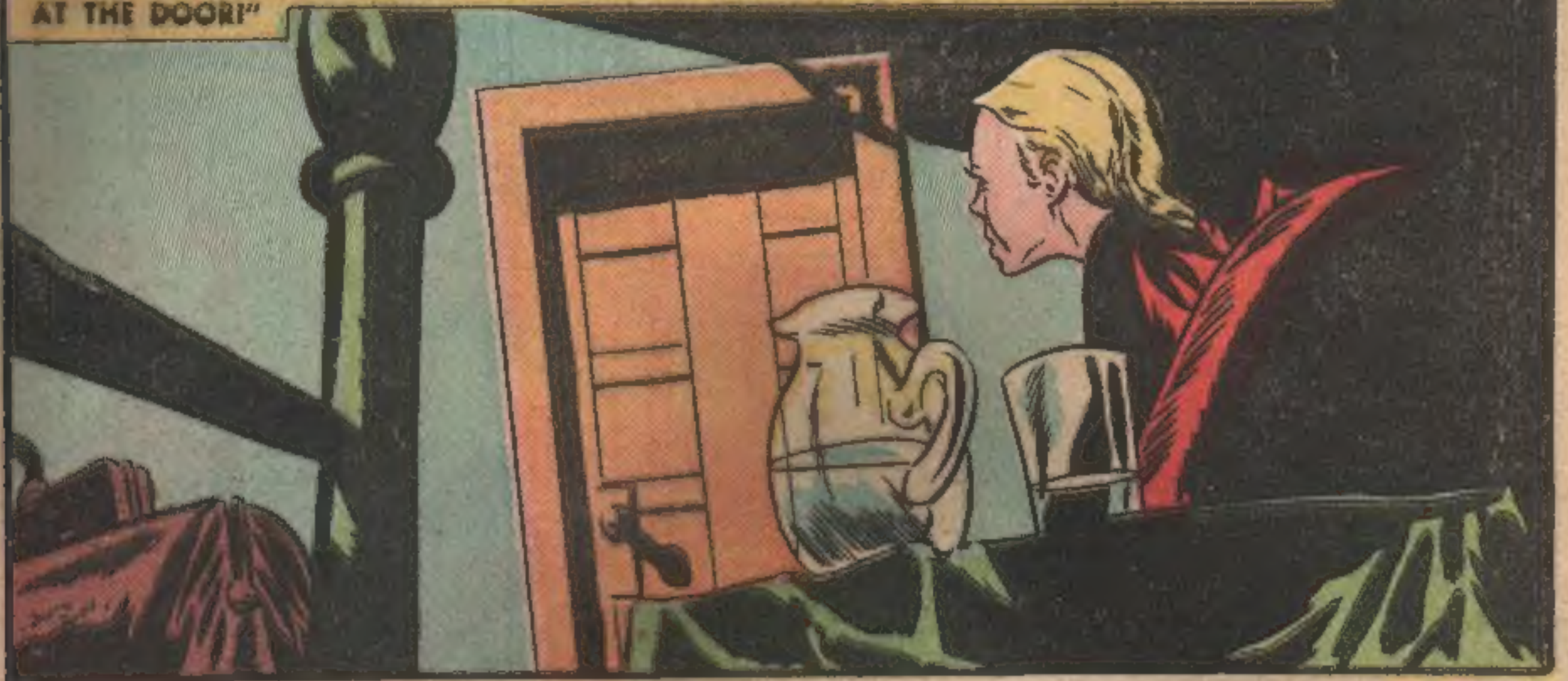


That's room two twelve.

Thank you! I'm sure he'll be back soon.



"HOUR AFTER HOUR PASSED! PEOPLE PASSED IN THE HALLWAY BUT NO ONE STOPPED AT THE DOOR!"



"FINALLY, I COULDN'T STAND THIS ENDLESS WAITING! I RAN TO THE DESK . . ."



"I'm sure something has happened to my father!"

"Perhaps we had better notify the police!"

"THE POLICE BEGAN A SEARCH AND THAT NIGHT THEY REPORTED TO ME."



"We can find no trace of your father, Miss Morstan! There is nothing more we can do!"

"That was ten years ago and the mystery of my father's disappearance is still unsolved!"

"There, there! I and Mr. Holmes will solve it!"



"Isn't there more to your story, Miss Morstan?"

"I'm sorry I broke down! Yes there is more. It happened six years ago!"



SHERLOCK HOLMES

"FOUR YEARS AFTER MY FATHER VANISHED, I FOUND A STRANGE ITEM IN THE PAPER . . ."

It Miss Mary Morstan will publish her address in this paper, she will find it to her advantage.

"I PUBLISHED MY ADDRESS AND THE NEXT DAY . . ."

Package for Miss Morstan!

Here I am!

"WHEN I OPENED THE PACKAGE, I FOUND . . ."

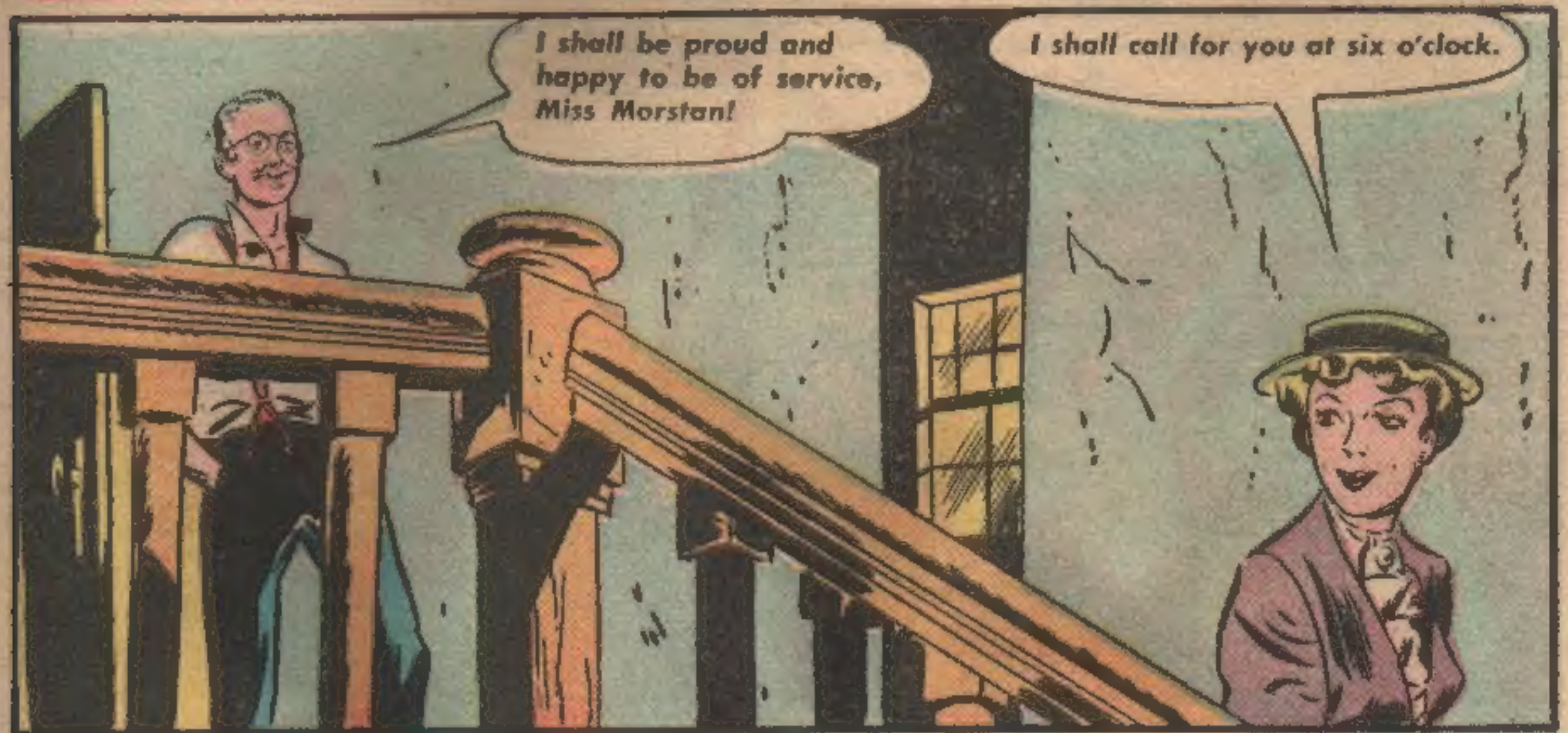
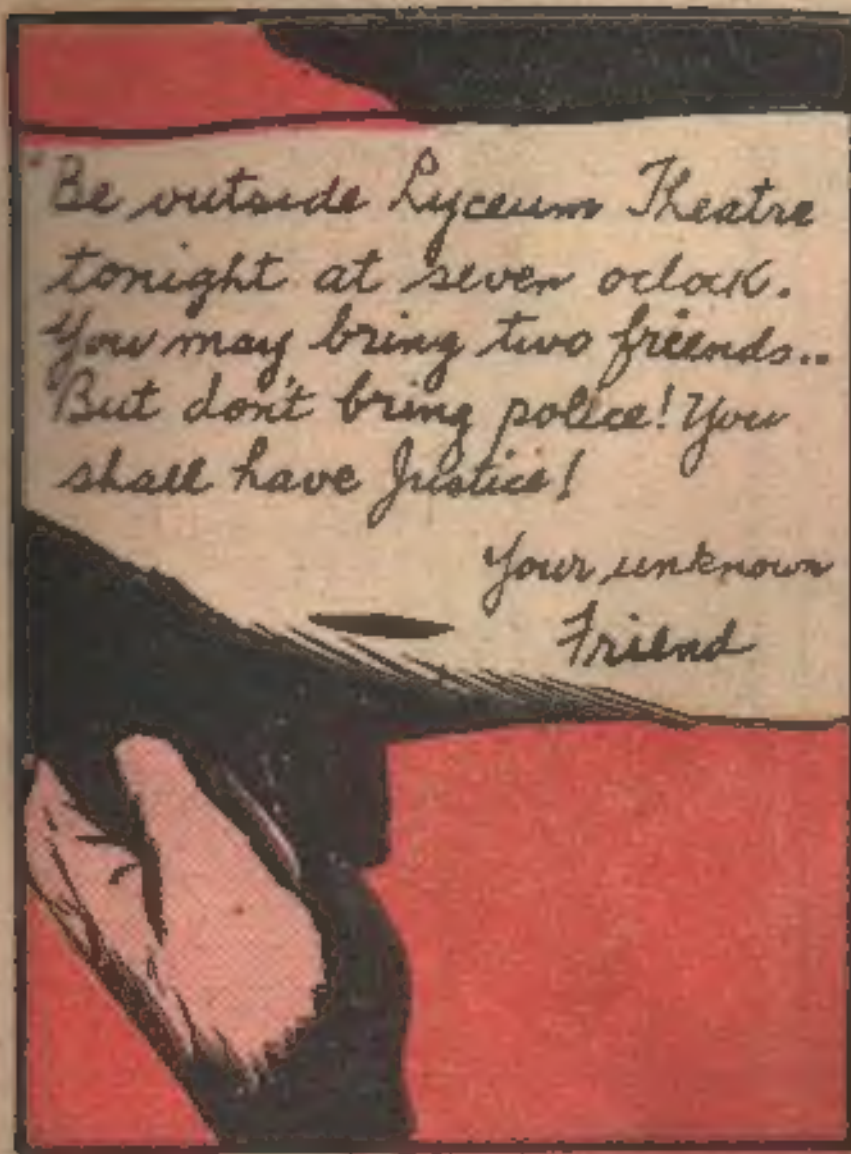
" . . . A BEAUTIFUL PEARL!"

Since then, every year on the same date, I've received a similar pearl! I have no clue as to the sender!

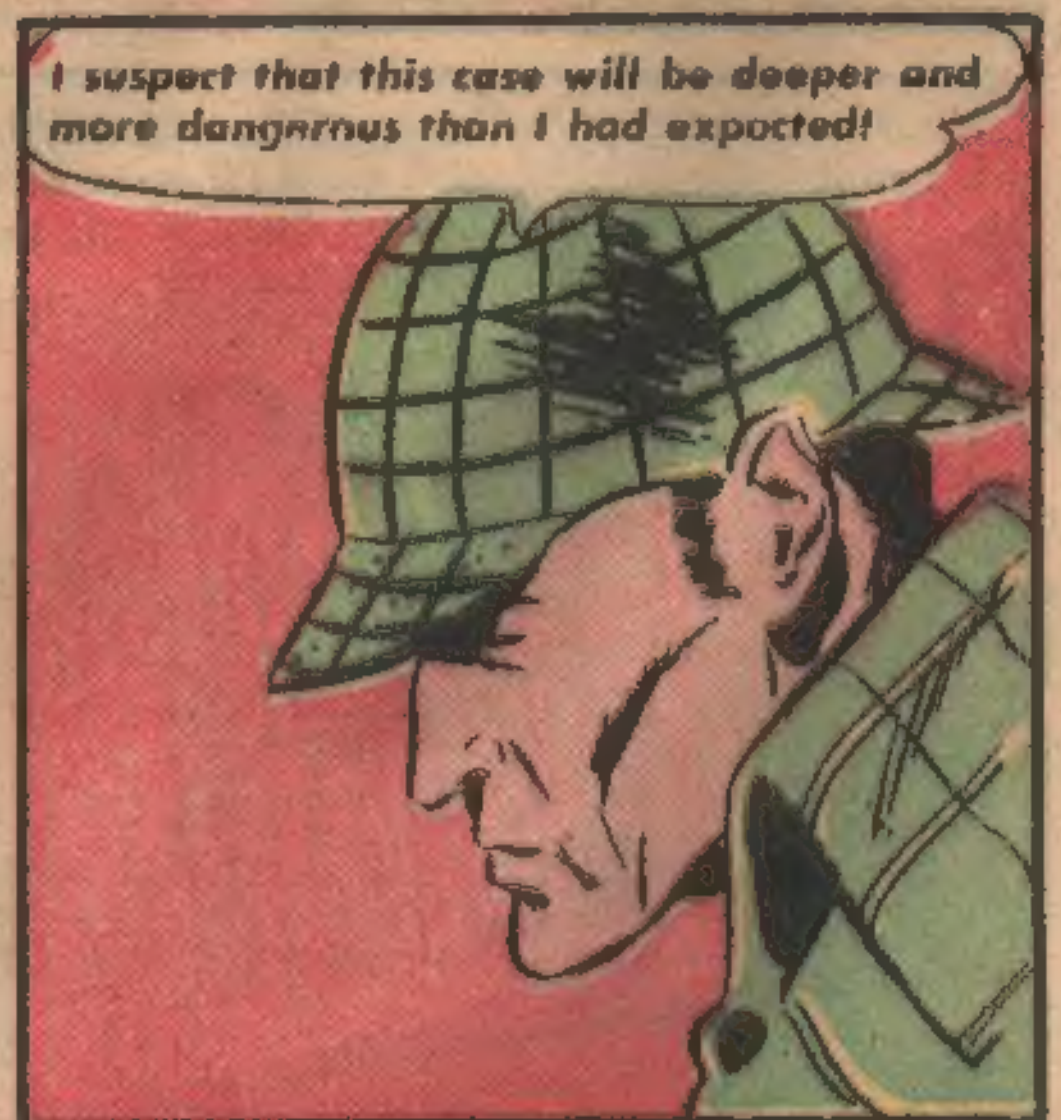
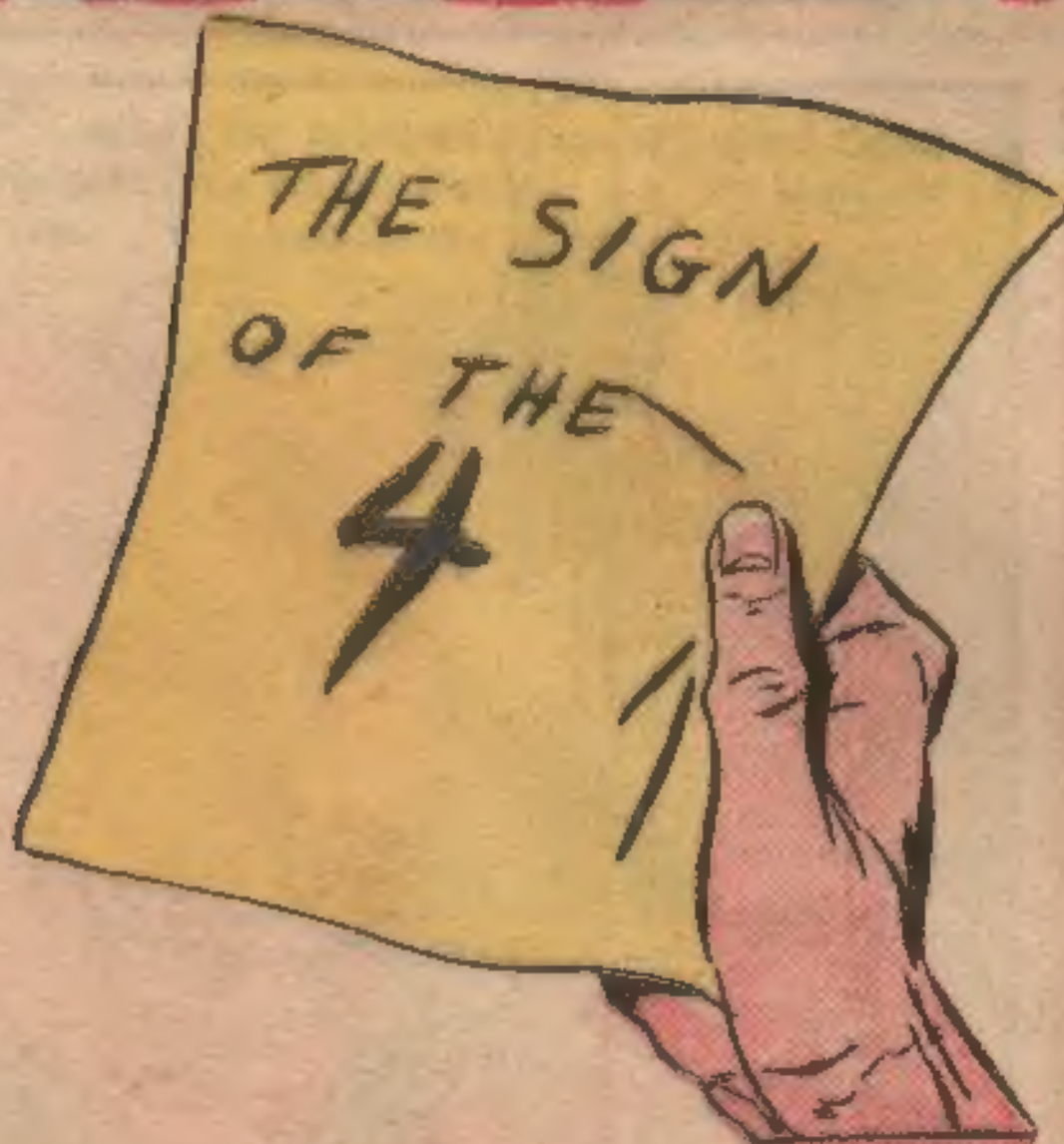
Remarkable! Remarkable!

This morning I received this letter.

This should be interesting!

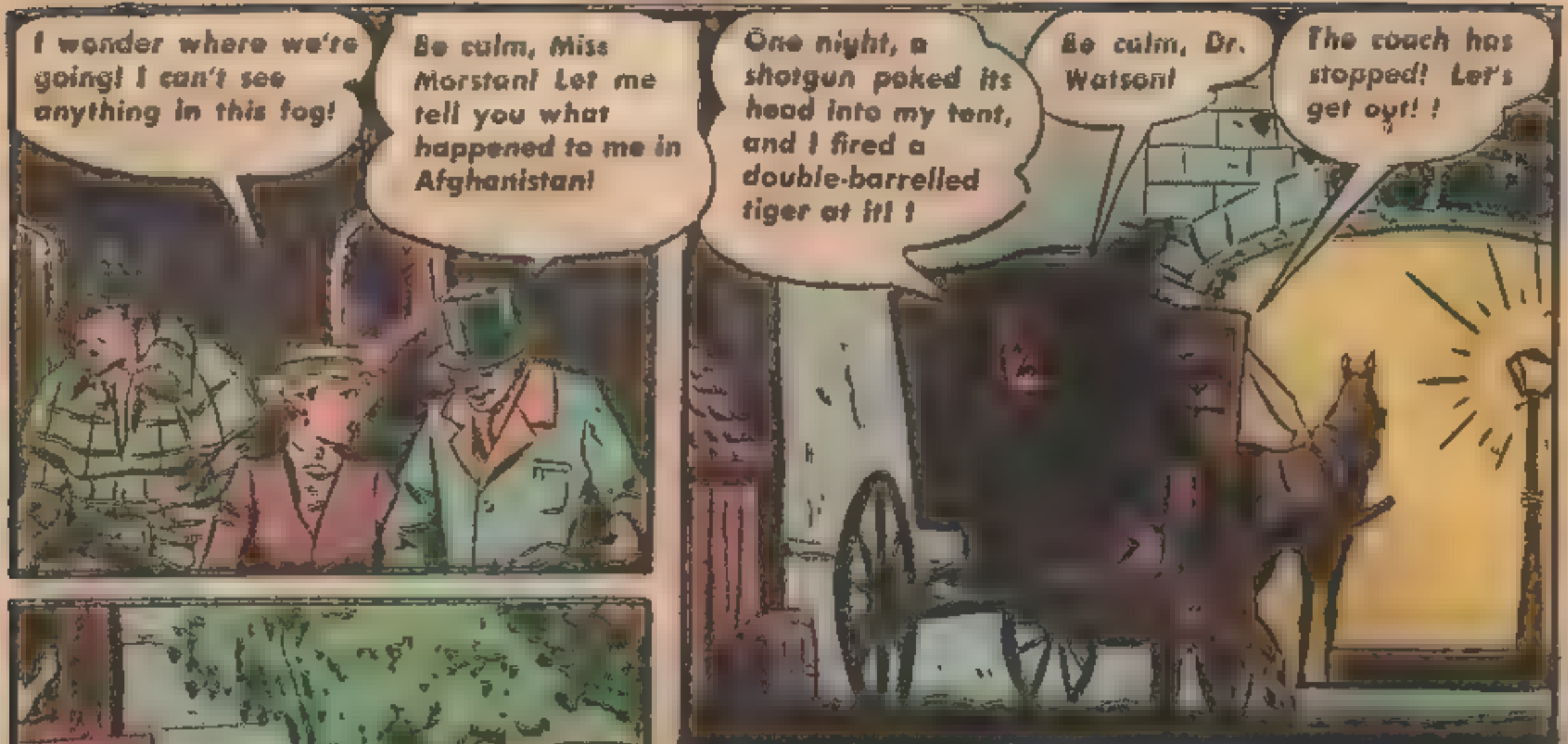


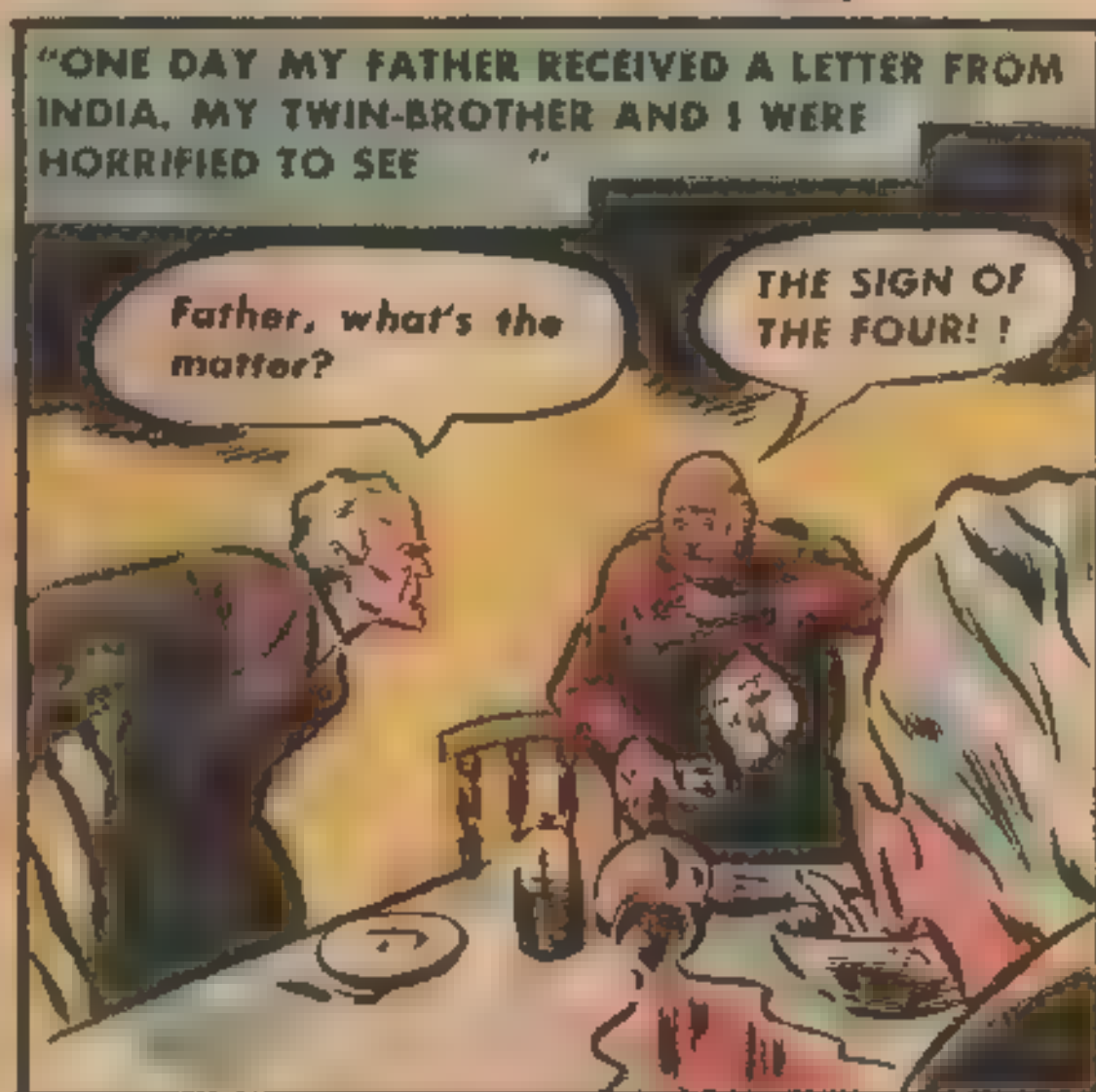
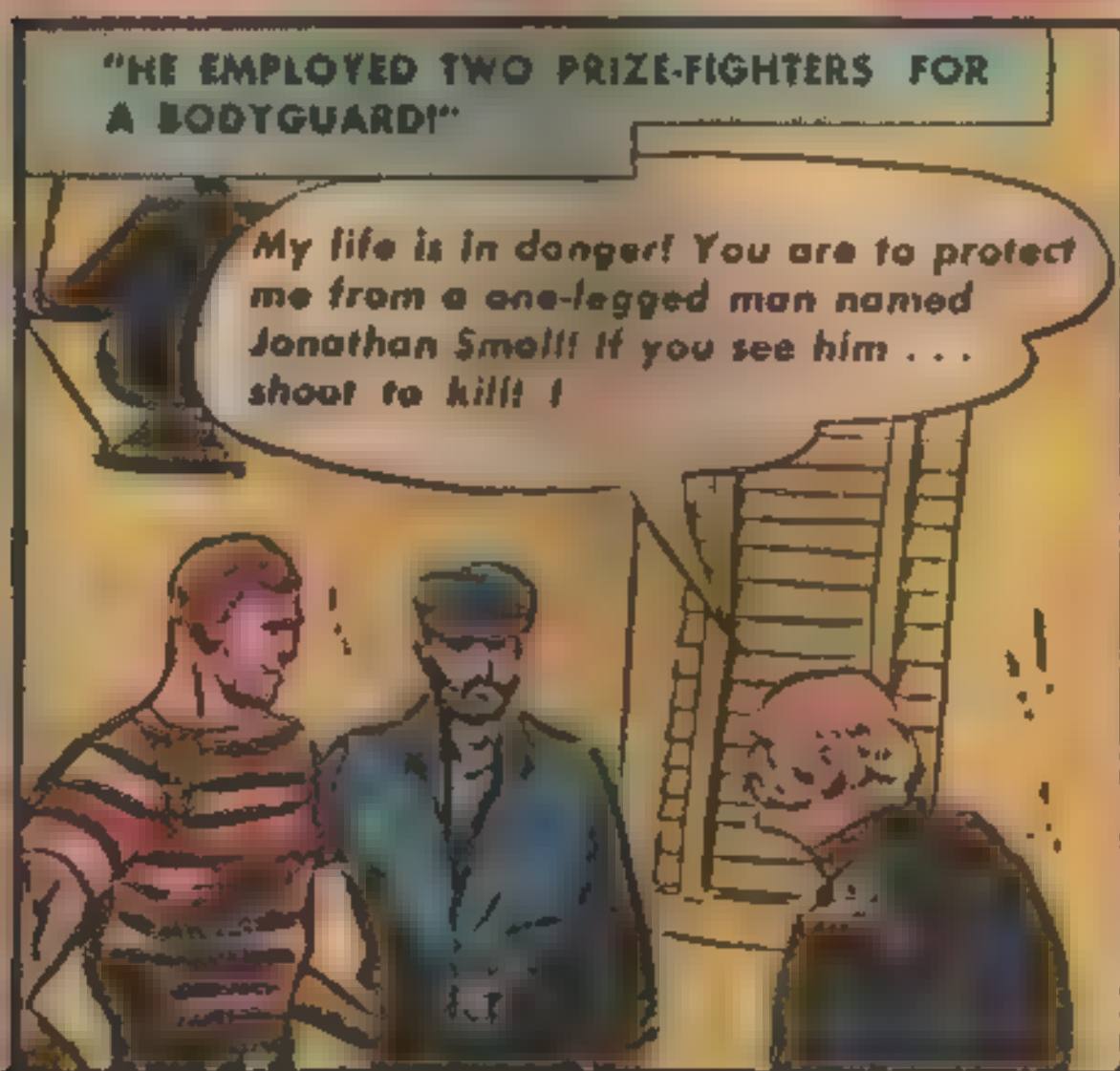
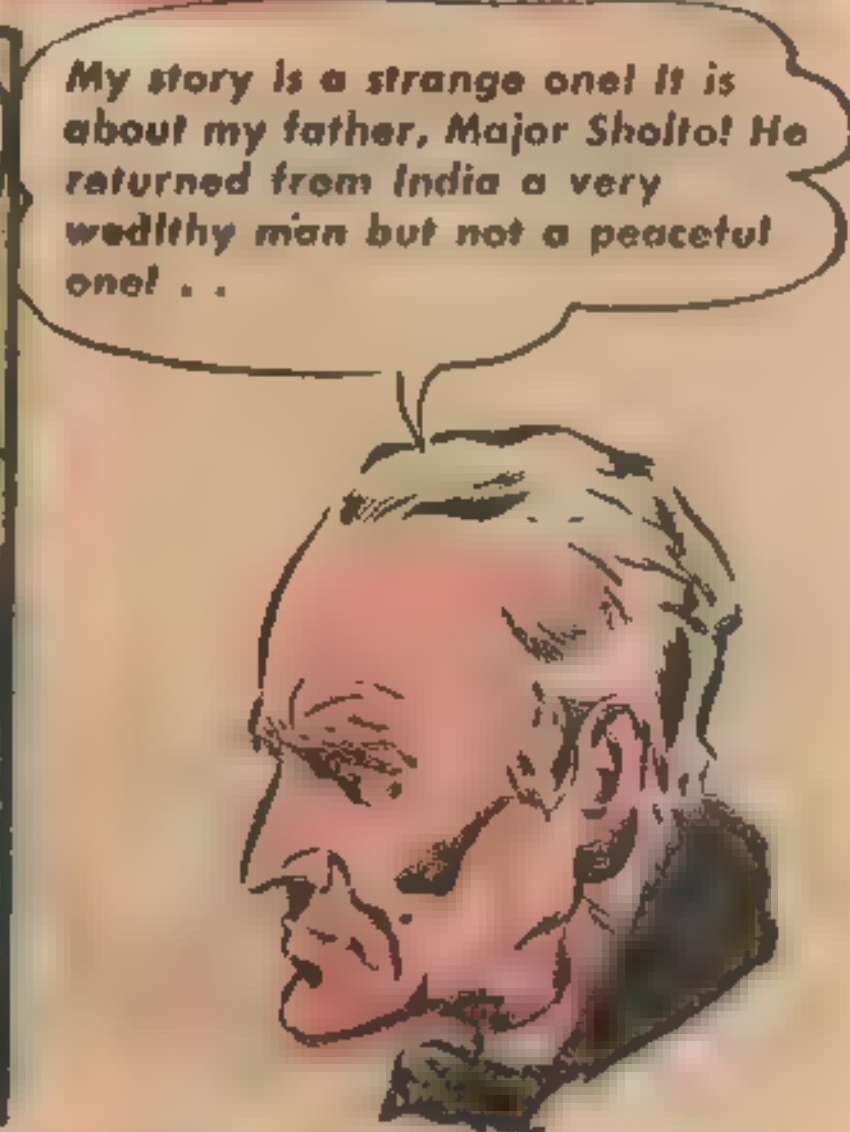
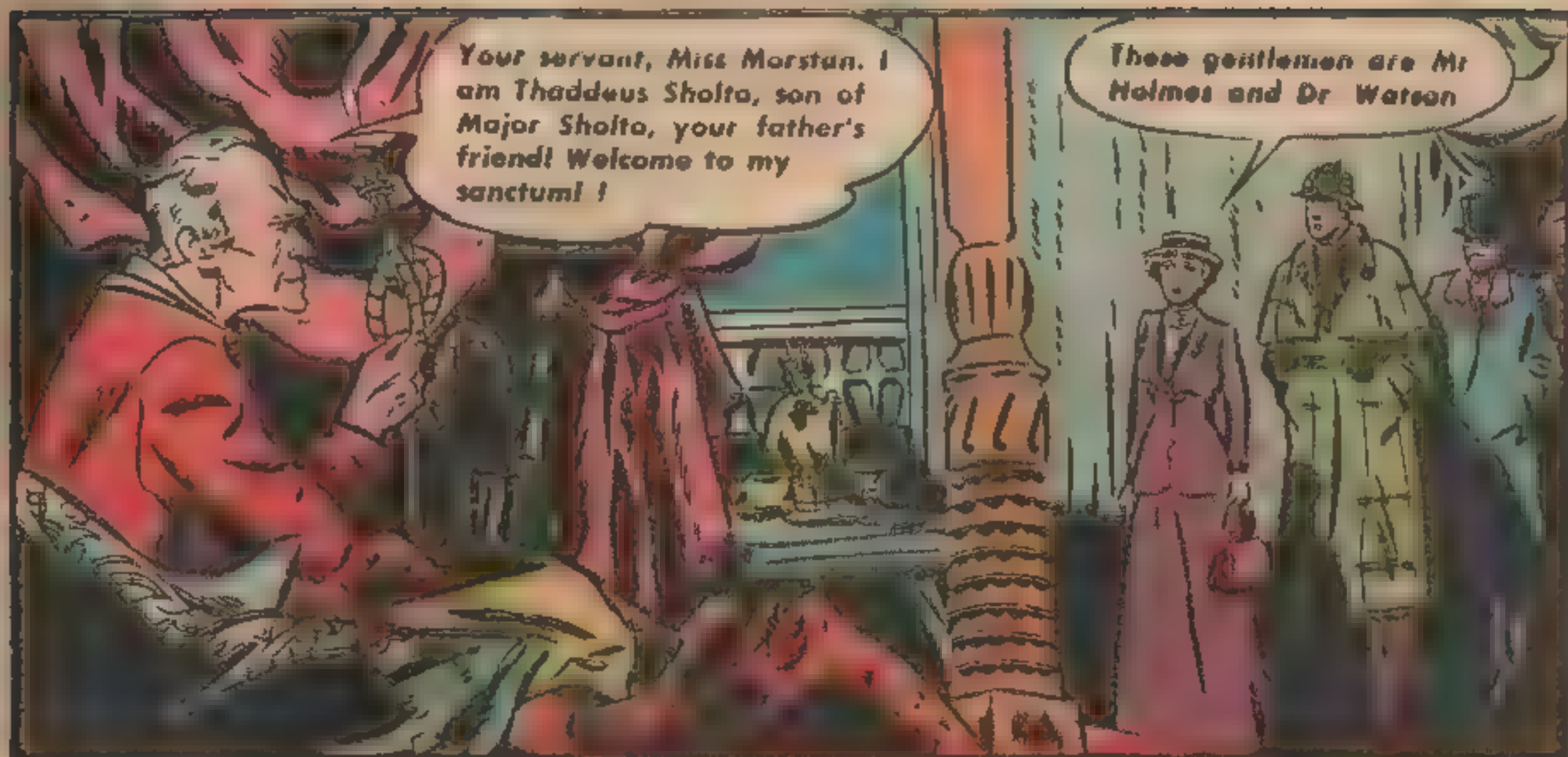
SHERLOCK HOLMES





SHERLOCK HOLMES





"WE PUT MY FATHER TO BED, BUT LATER THAT DAY . . ."

I've called you in because I am dying, and I have a confession to make. I have wronged the daughter of my friend, Captain Morstan!

What do you mean, father?



In India, Captain Morstan and I discovered a treasure! I brought it here and hid it without giving Morstan his share. He followed me to London and came here! I remember that night . . .

You've cheated me long enough, Sholto! Now I want my share of the treasure for my daughter! !

Easy, Morstan! Remember you have a weak heart!



"SUDDENLY . . ."

You blackguard! You swine! I'll . . . Oh! my heart! !

Morstan! . . . Good God! . . . He's dead! !



Morstan died of a heart attack! I feared that I might be accused of murdering him so I hid his body and said nothing! I

But father, what of the treasure?

This necklace is a small part of it. I want you to take the treasure and send half of it to Miss Morstan when I die!

But where is the treasure hidden?

The treasure is in... JONATHAN SMALL! ... Don't let him get me! Keep him out. He'll kill me! I

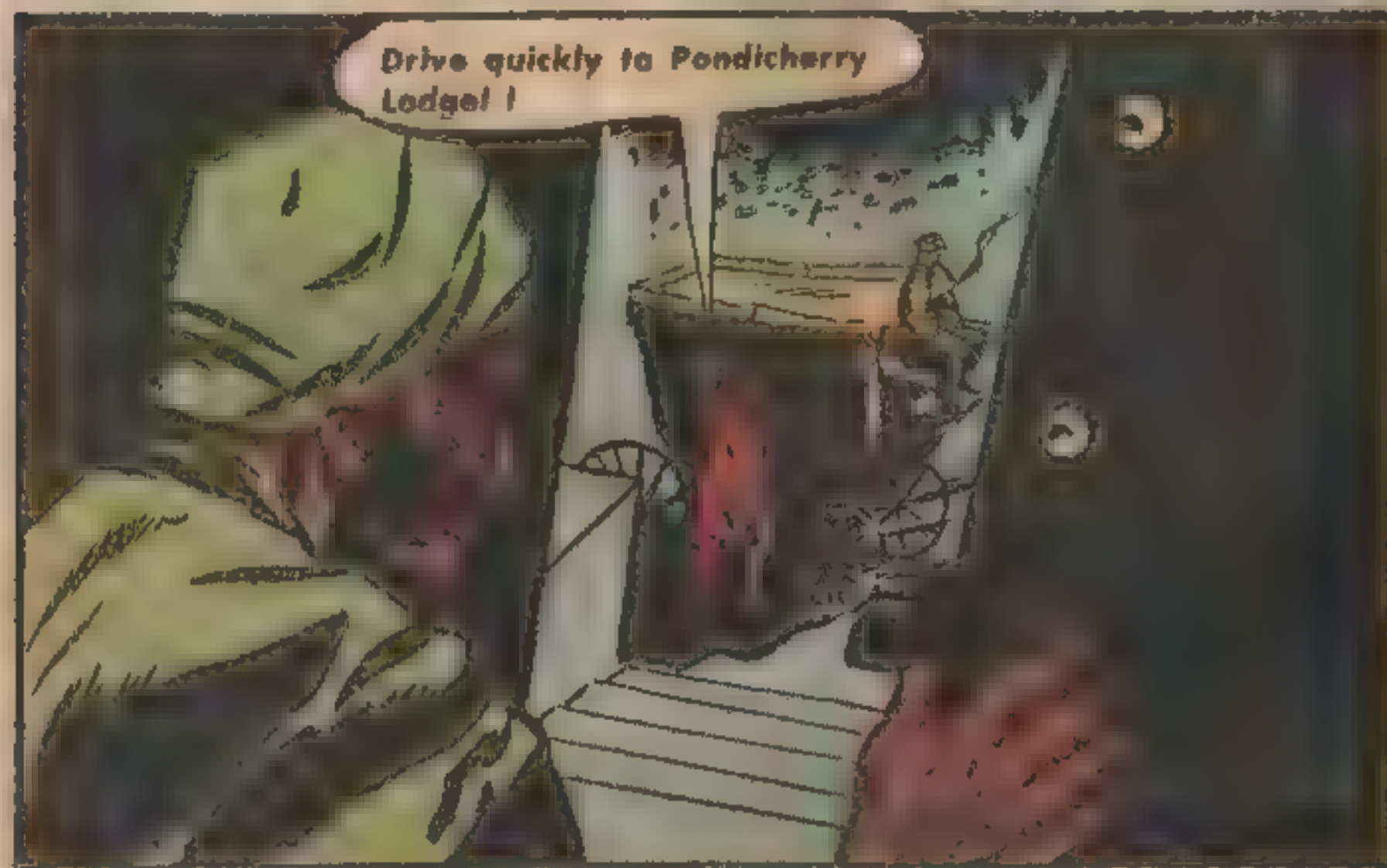
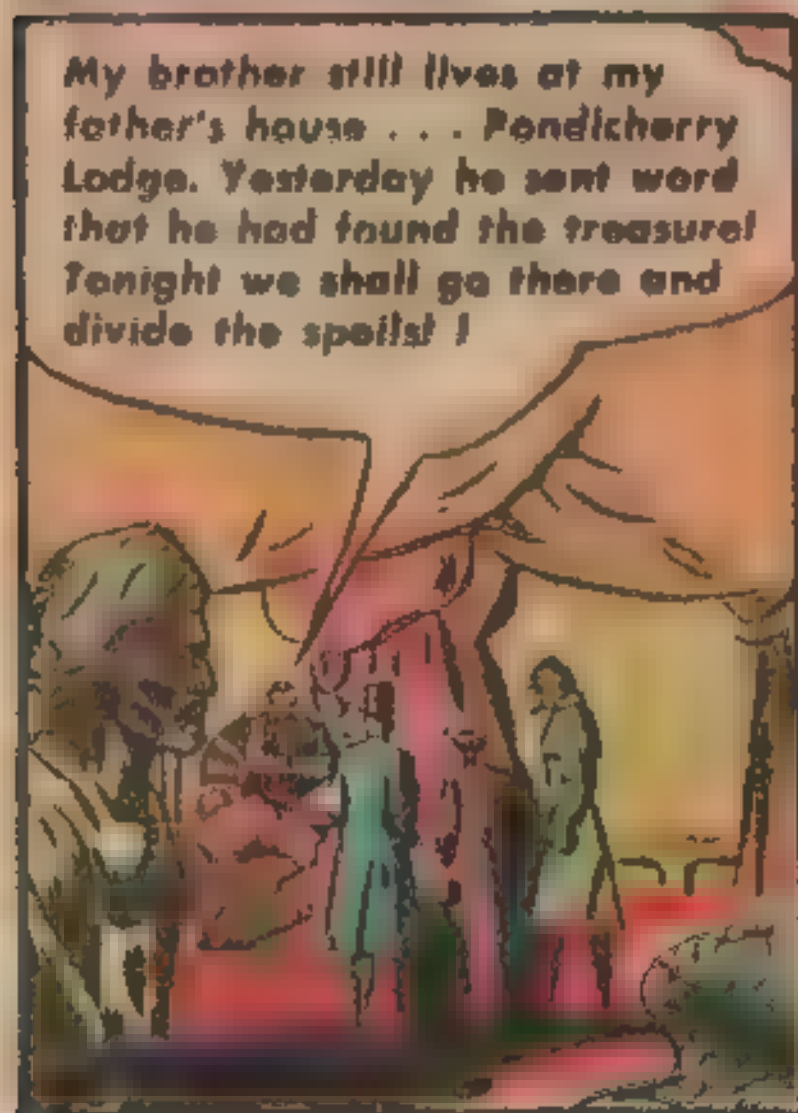
SUDDENLY... AT OPEN WINDOW, JONATHAN SMALL DROPS A NOTE INTO THE ROOM.

He's disappeared... but he left this note!

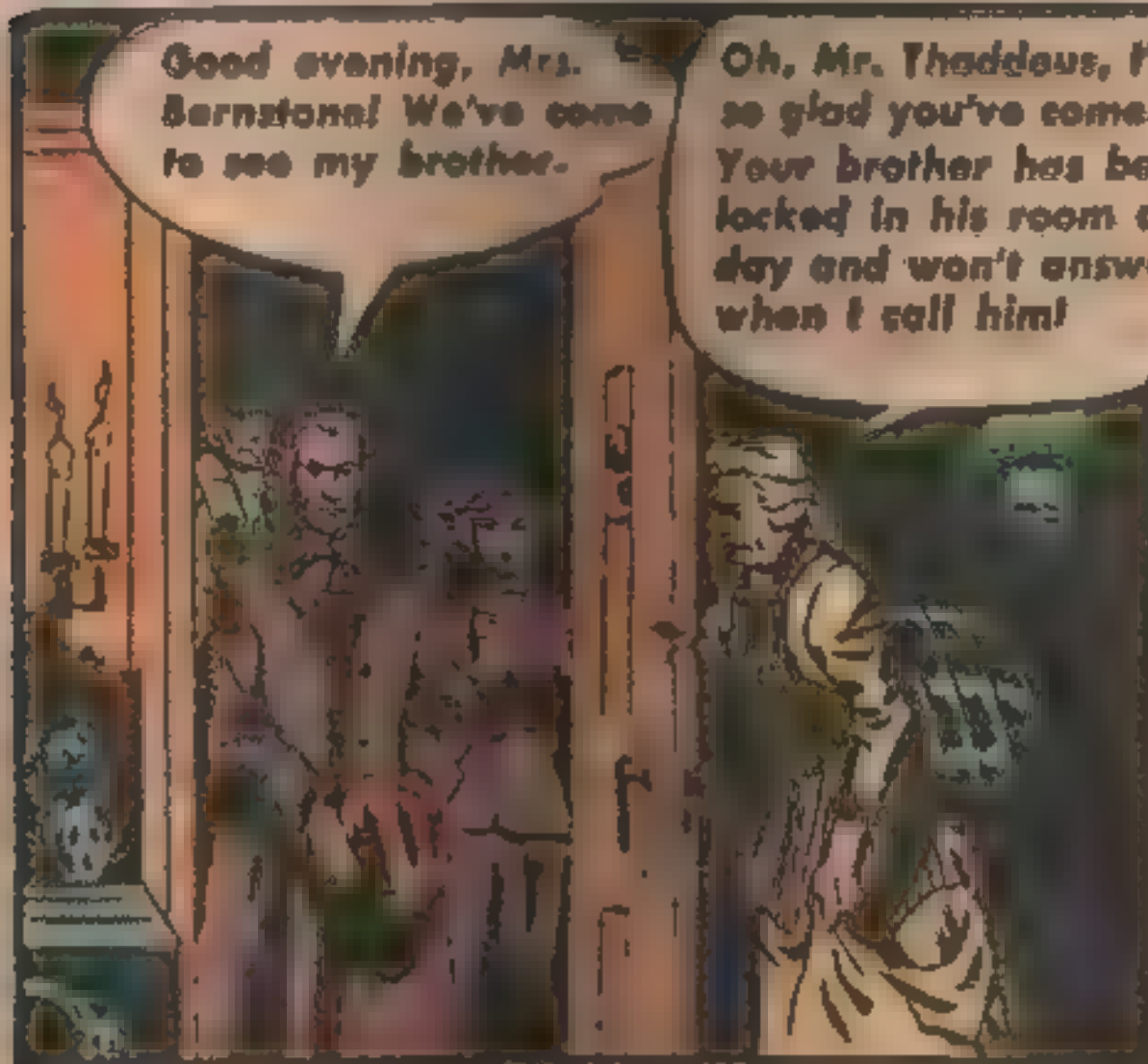
Bartholomew! Father is dead! The check was too much for him! I

What does the note say?

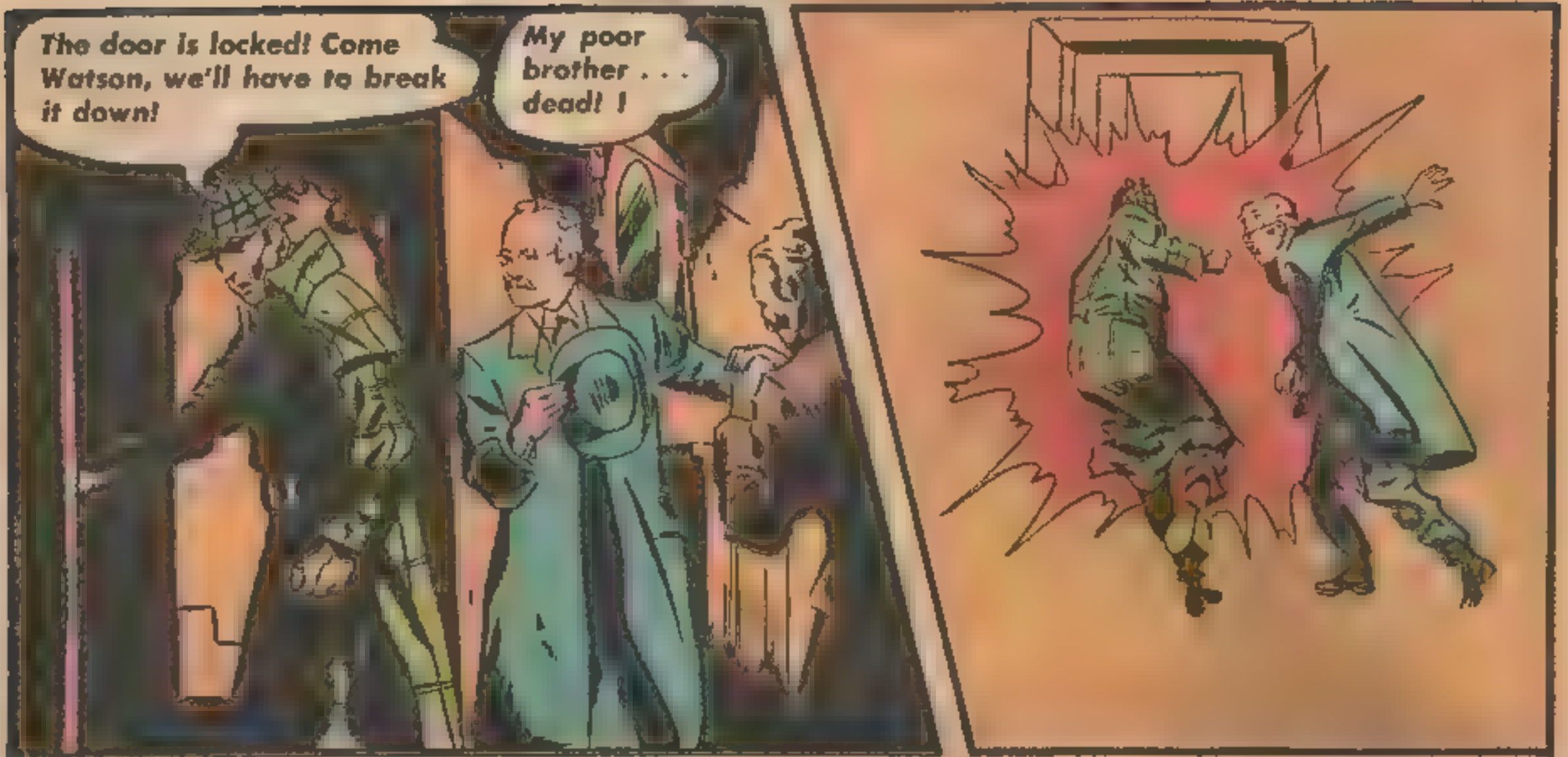
THE SIGN OF THE FOUR! I

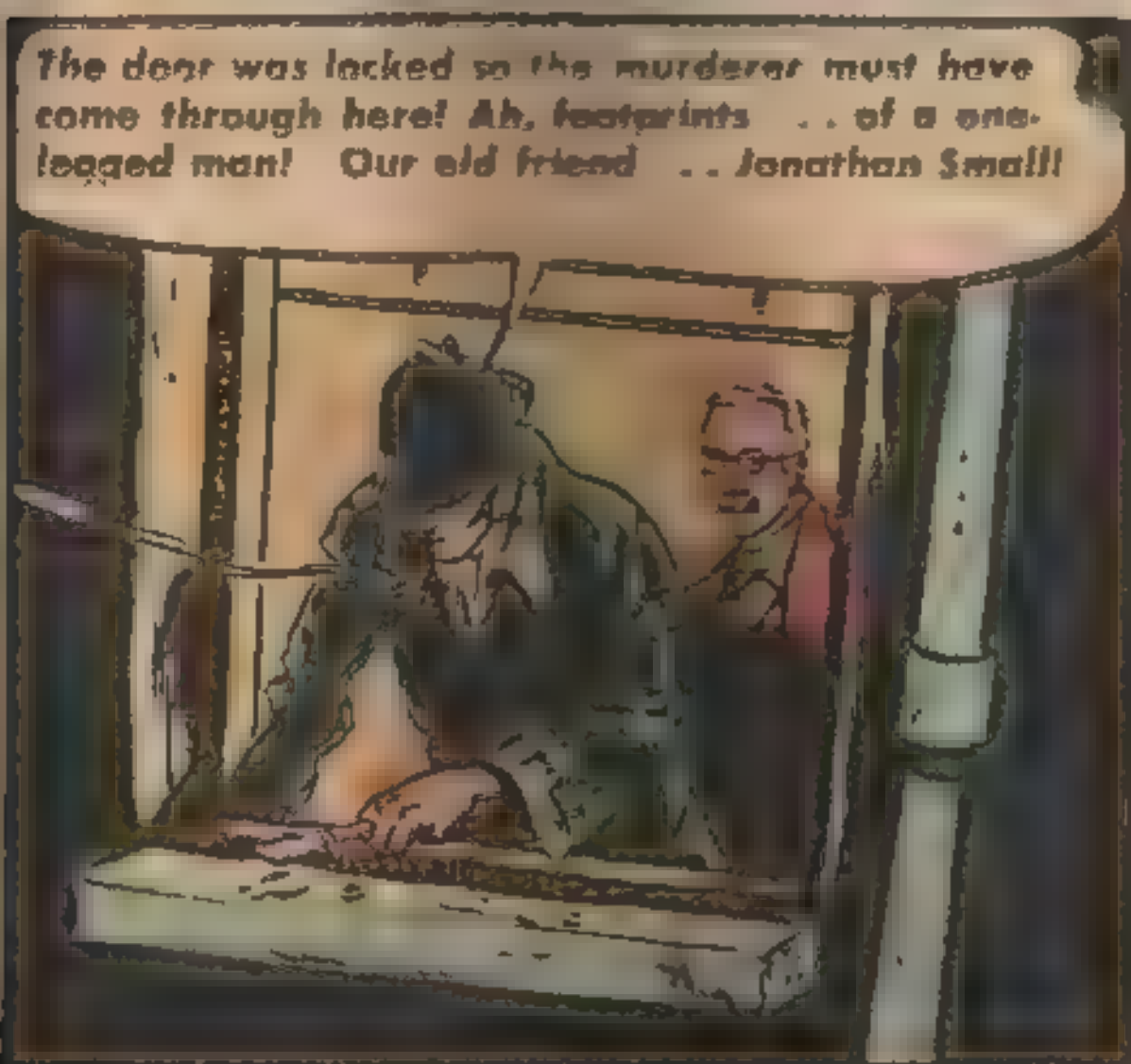


ONCE AGAIN OUR FRIENDS MOVE THROUGH THE DOG-BOUND NIGHT THIS TIME TO PONDICHERRY LODGE TO FIND . . . WHAT?

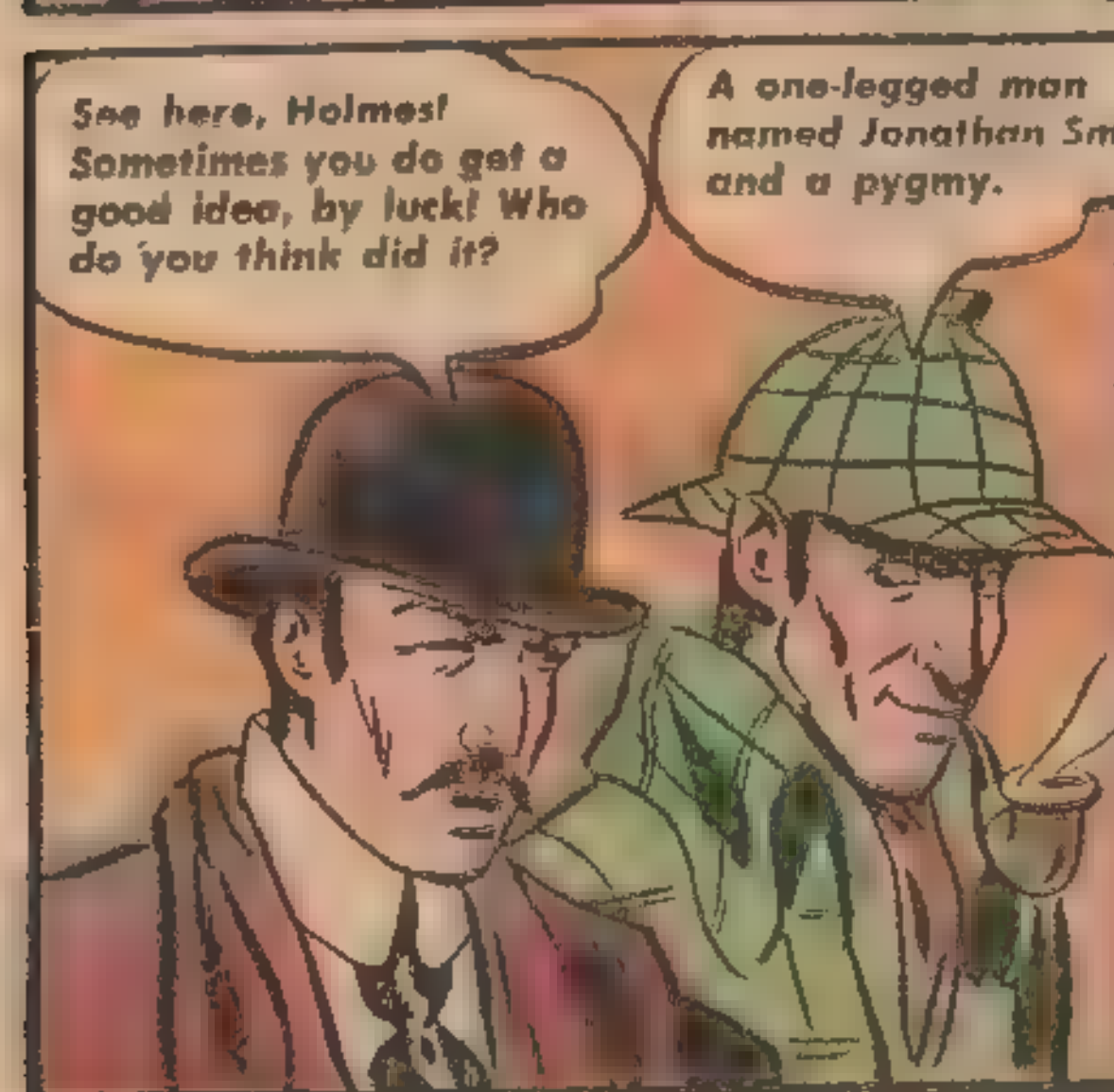


SHERLOCK HOLMES



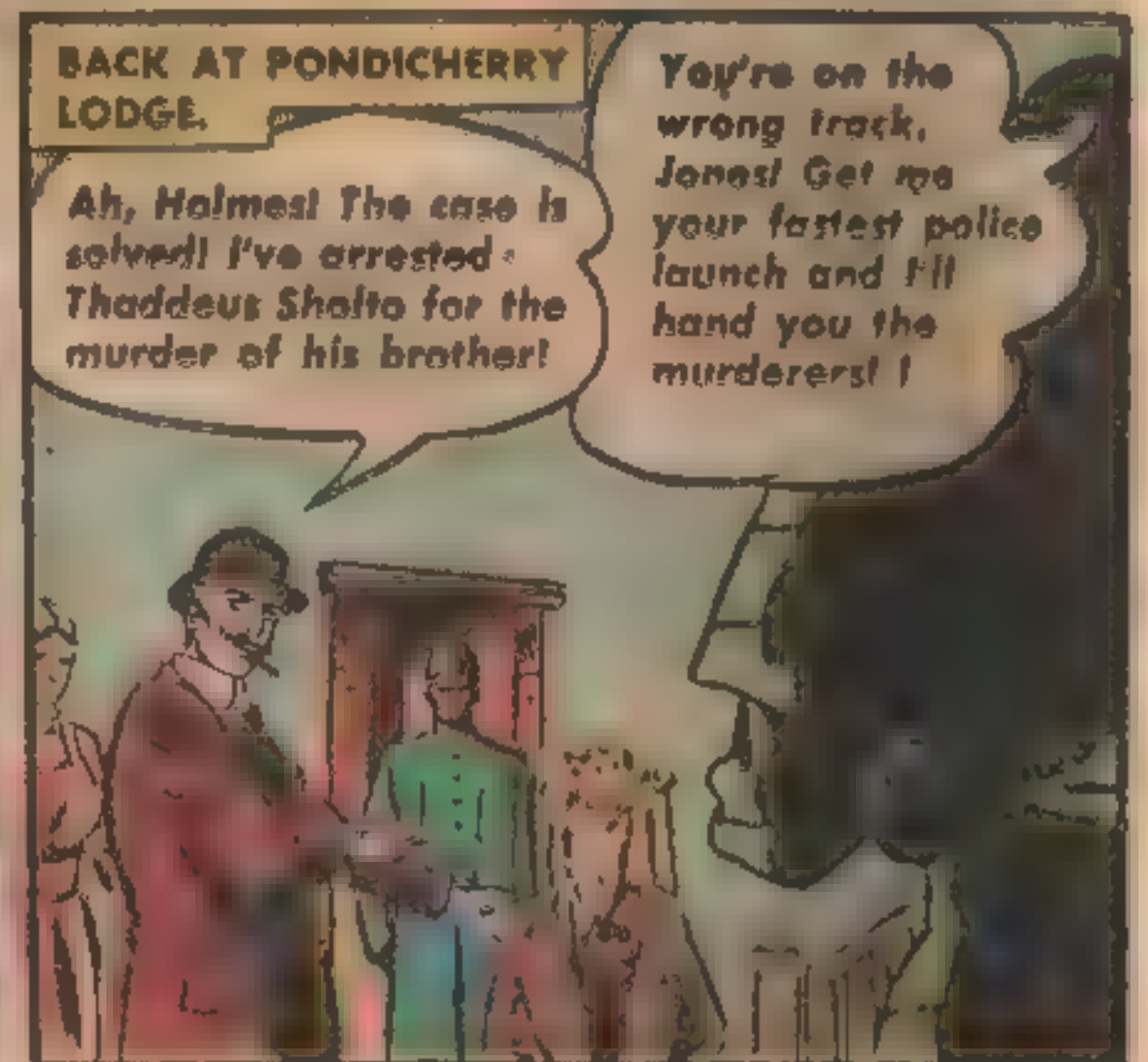


SHERLOCK HOLMES





SHERLOCK HOLMES



CLASSICS Illustrated

AT WESTMINSTER WHARF . . .

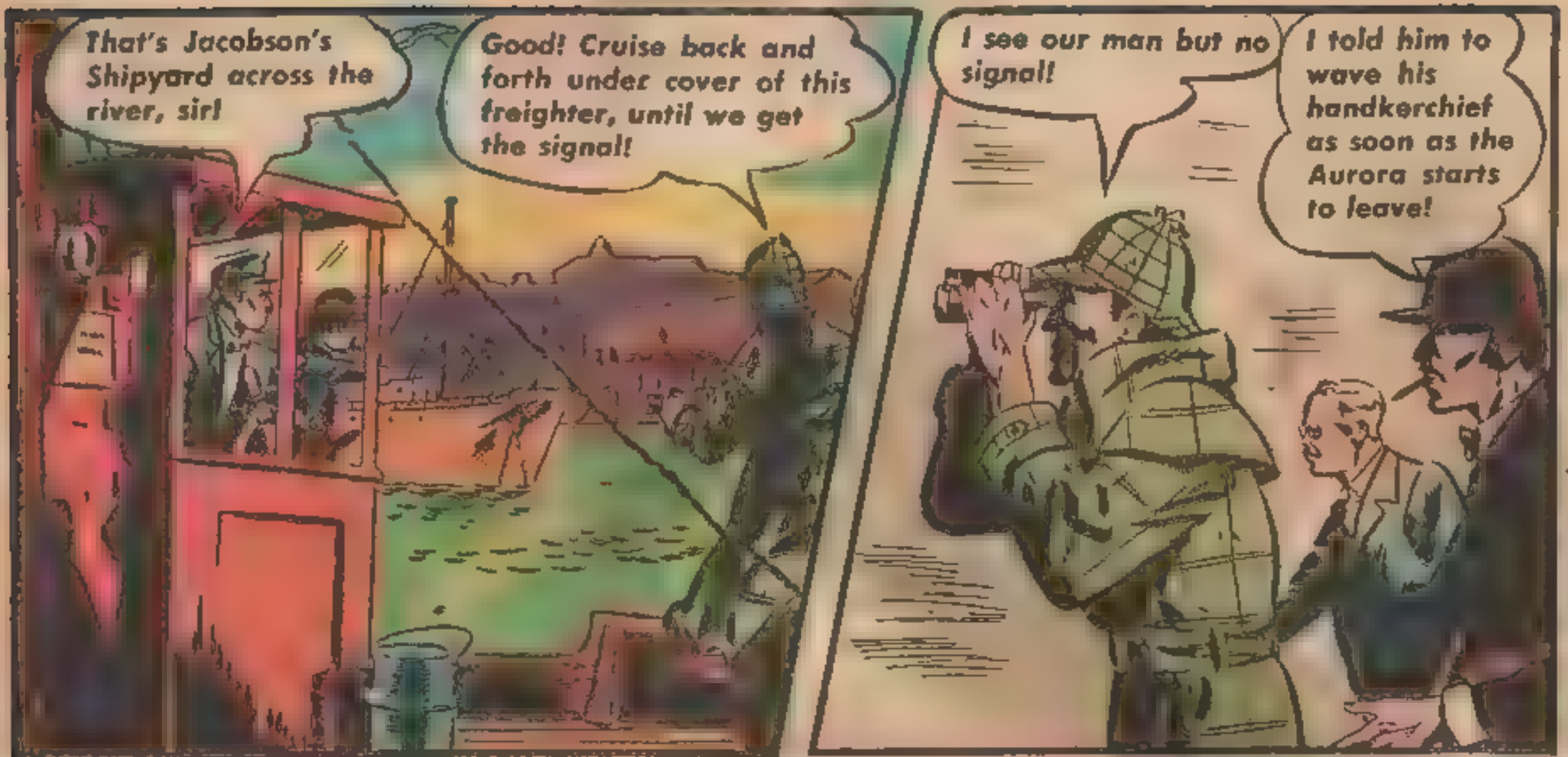
Captain Meadow, is your boat fast enough to catch the Aurora?

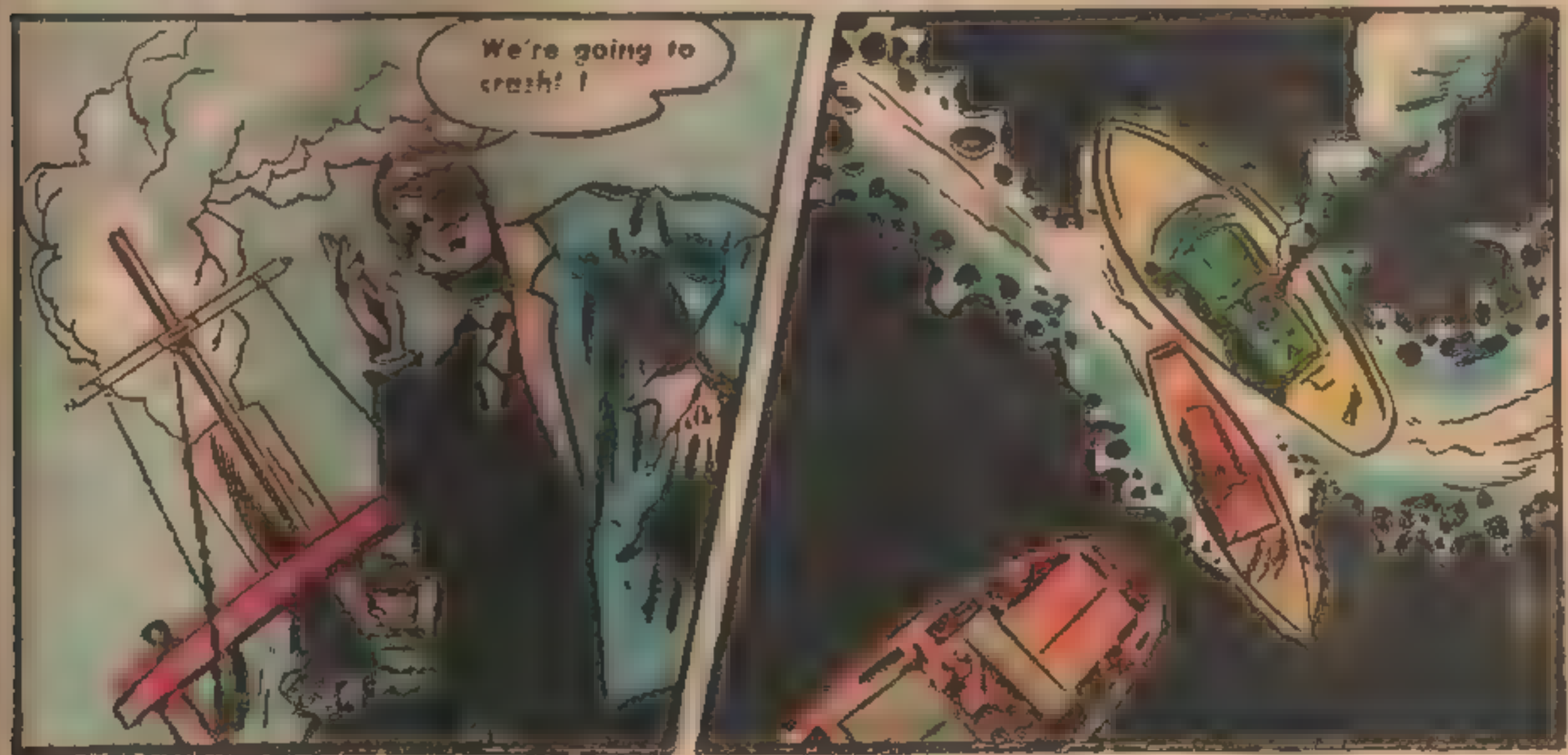
This is the fastest launch we have, Mr. Holmes! We'll catch anything on the river! I

Aye, aye, sir! Cast off, men!

Good! Let's go! Head for
the Tower opposite
Jacobson's shipyard!

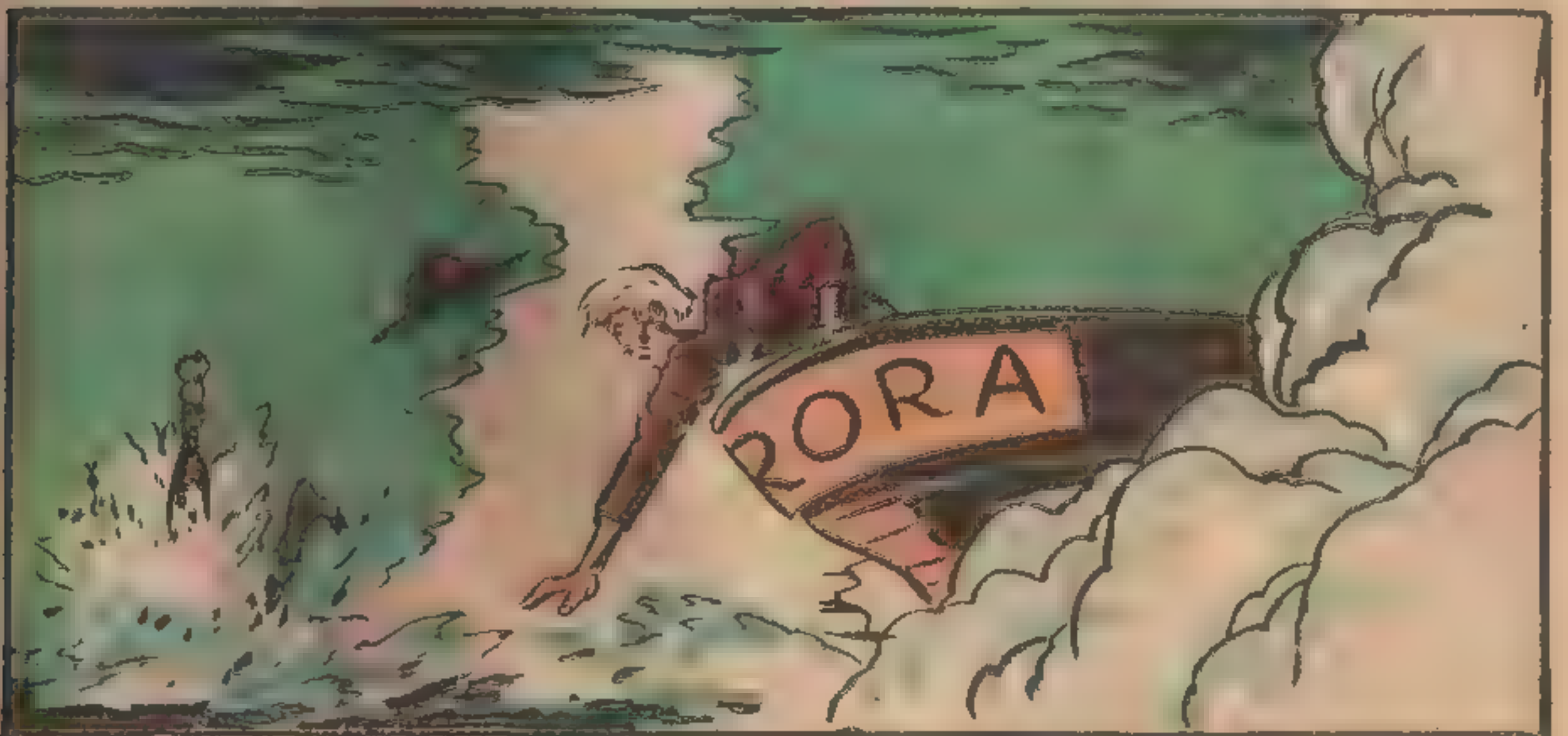
We're off! Be careful, Captain. If they discover us, it will mean bloodshed!





SHERLOCK HOLMES



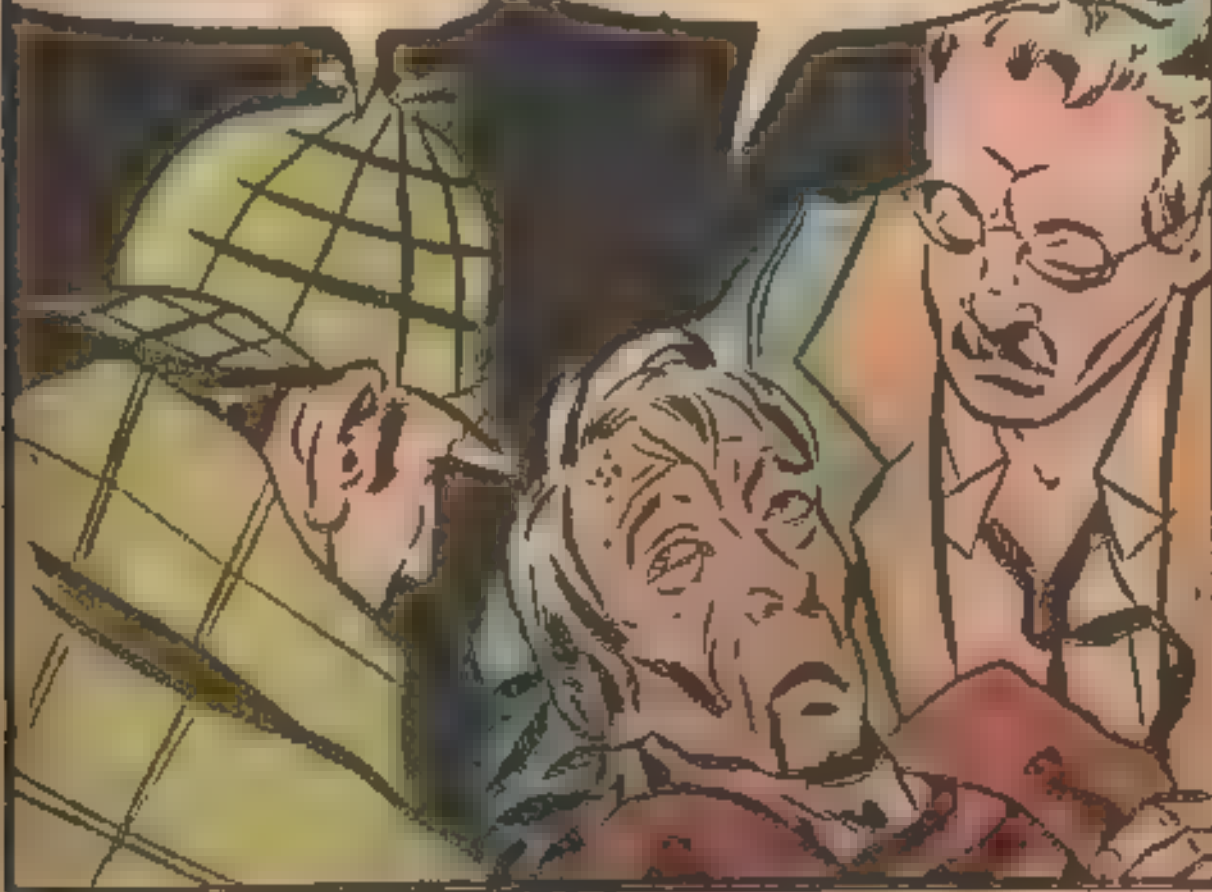


SHERLOCK HOLMES



You're dying, Jonathan! You might as well make a clean breast of it!

What can I lose! I'll confess! My story begins in India many years ago . . .



"I HAD THREE HINDU FRIENDS. WE CALLED OURSELVES THE FOUR. ONE DAY . . ."

I have heard that Mahomet Singh has a chest of jewels which he is guarding for the Rajah! Tonight we must kill Singh and get the jewels! Agreed?

Agreed ! !



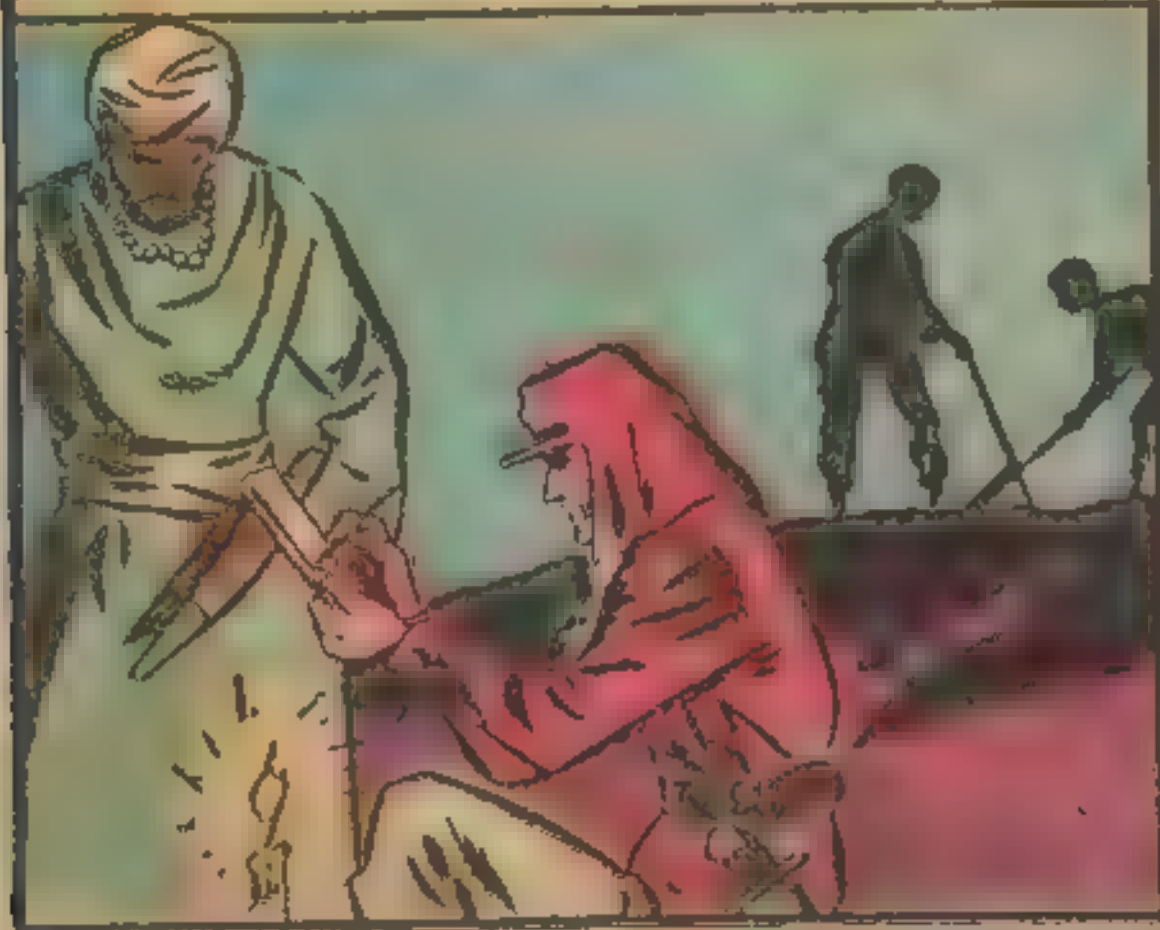
"THAT NIGHT . . ."



Quickly! Take the jewels and run! !



"WE BURIED THE TREASURE AND I MADE FOUR MAPS . . . ONE FOR EACH OF US. WE ALL SIGNED THE MAPS . . . THE SIGN OF THE FOUR!"



"HOWEVER . . . SOMEONE HAD SEEN US THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER. WE WERE CAUGHT AND TRIED. THE HINDUS WERE KILLED AND I WAS SENTENCED TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE ON BLAIR ISLAND!"

Blair Island, Small! Don't get too friendly with the pygmies! They're cannibals!



"BLAIR ISLAND WAS A LIVING HELL!"

Dig harder, Small! We don't like shirkers!



"ONE DAY MAJOR SHOLTO, COMMANDER OF THE PRISON, AND CAPTAIN MORSTAN, HIS AIDE, CAME TO MY CELL."

If you tell us where you hid the treasure, Small, we'll help you escape and share the treasure with you!



"IT WAS MY ONLY CHANCE TO LEAVE BLAIR ISLAND ALIVE. I GAVE MAJOR SHOLTO MY MAP. HE AGREED TO LOOK FOR THE TREASURE AND, IF HE FOUND IT, TO ARRANGE FOR MY ESCAPE."



"MAJOR SHOLTO LEFT THE ISLAND. MONTHS WENT BY ONE DAY CAPTAIN MORSTAN CAME UP TO ME

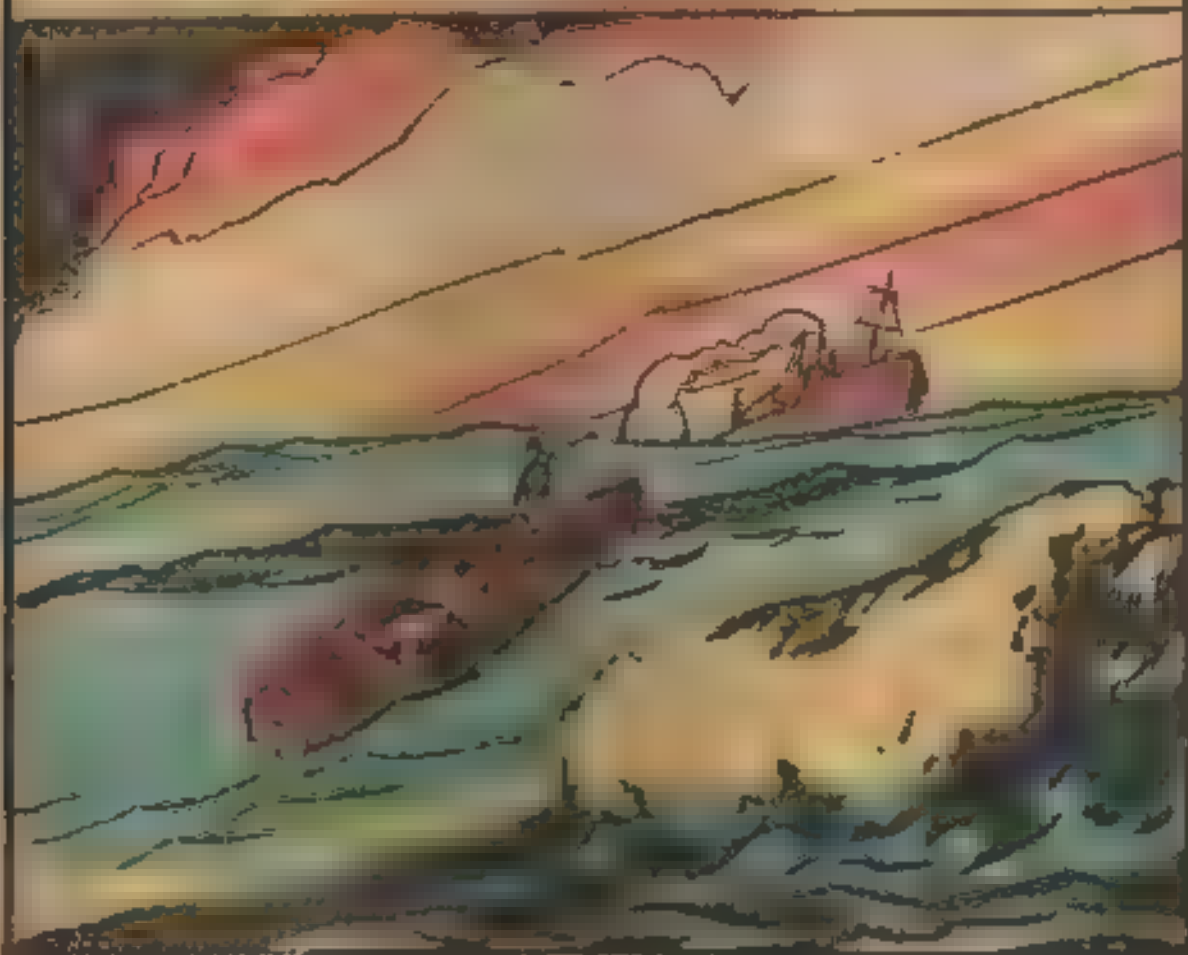
Major Sholto has found the treasure and gone back to England. Small, we've both been tricked!



"I SWORE THAT I'D ESCAPE AND KILL SHOLTO WITH MY BARE HANDS! ONE NIGHT I SLIPPED AWAY WITH TONGA, A PYGMY I HAD ONCE BEFRIENDED."



"FOR WEEKS WE DRIFTED ALONG I WAS CLOSE TO DEATH WHEN A STEAMER PICKED US UP."



"I WORKED MY WAY TO ENGLAND AND ARRIVED IN TIME TO SEE MAJOR SHOLTO DIE."



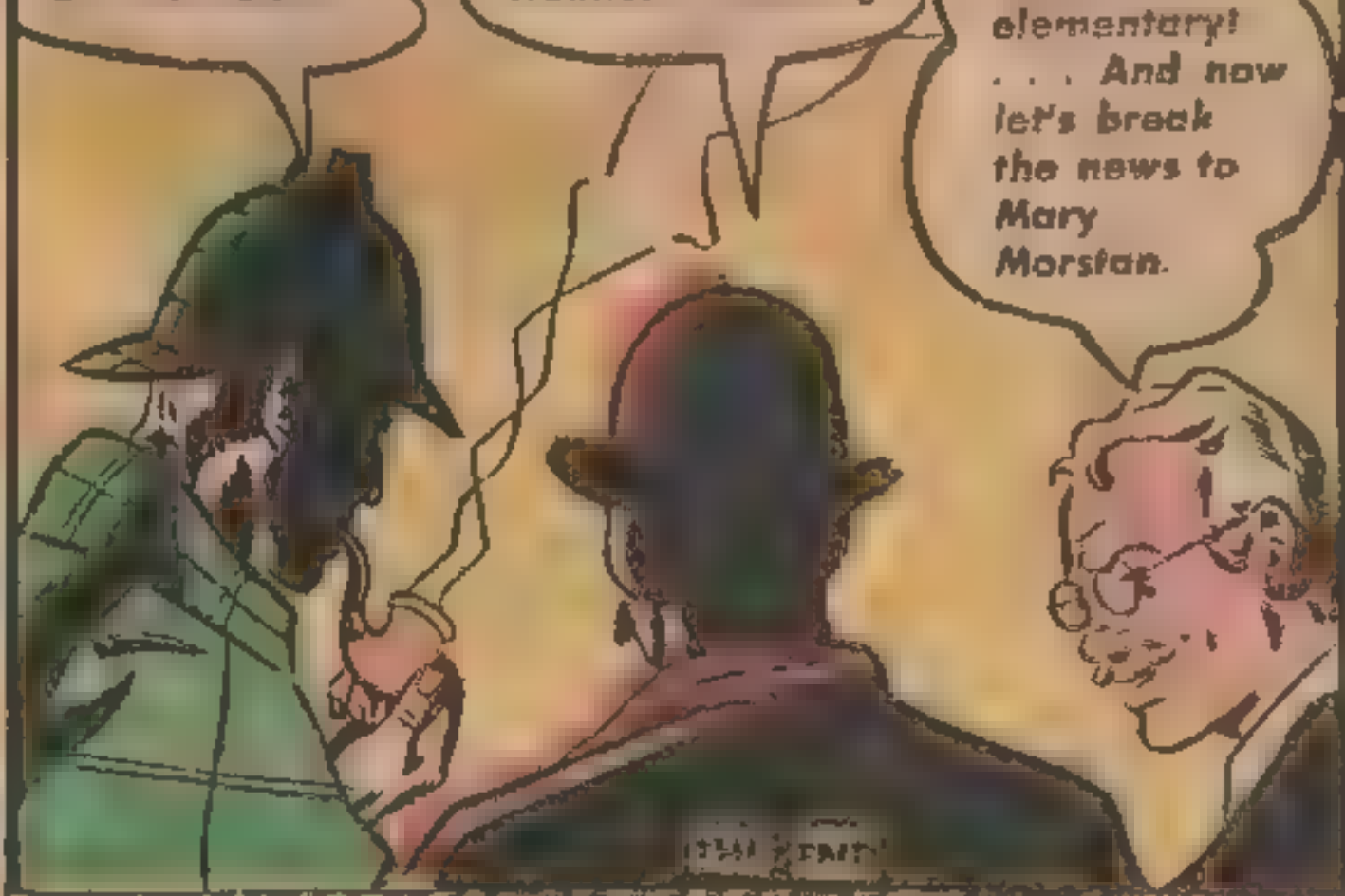
I'm sorry Tonga killed Bartholomew. It was a mistake. The treasure is on the Aurora. I wish I could have killed Sholto myself. He was ugh



Thus ends the case of THE SIGN OF THE FOUR!

An amazing piece of deduction, Holmes! Amazing!

Elementary, my dear Jones. elementary! . . . And now let's break the news to Mary Morstan.





MANY THINGS HAPPEN ON THE
FACE OF THE EARTH WHICH MAN
CANNOT EXPLAIN AWAY WITH
ALL HIS SCIENCE! THESE THINGS
ARE CALLED SUPERNATURAL! IT IS
NOT WISE TO LAUGH AT THEM!
THEY WHO LAUGH DIE
HORRIBLY! LISTEN TO THE STORY
OF

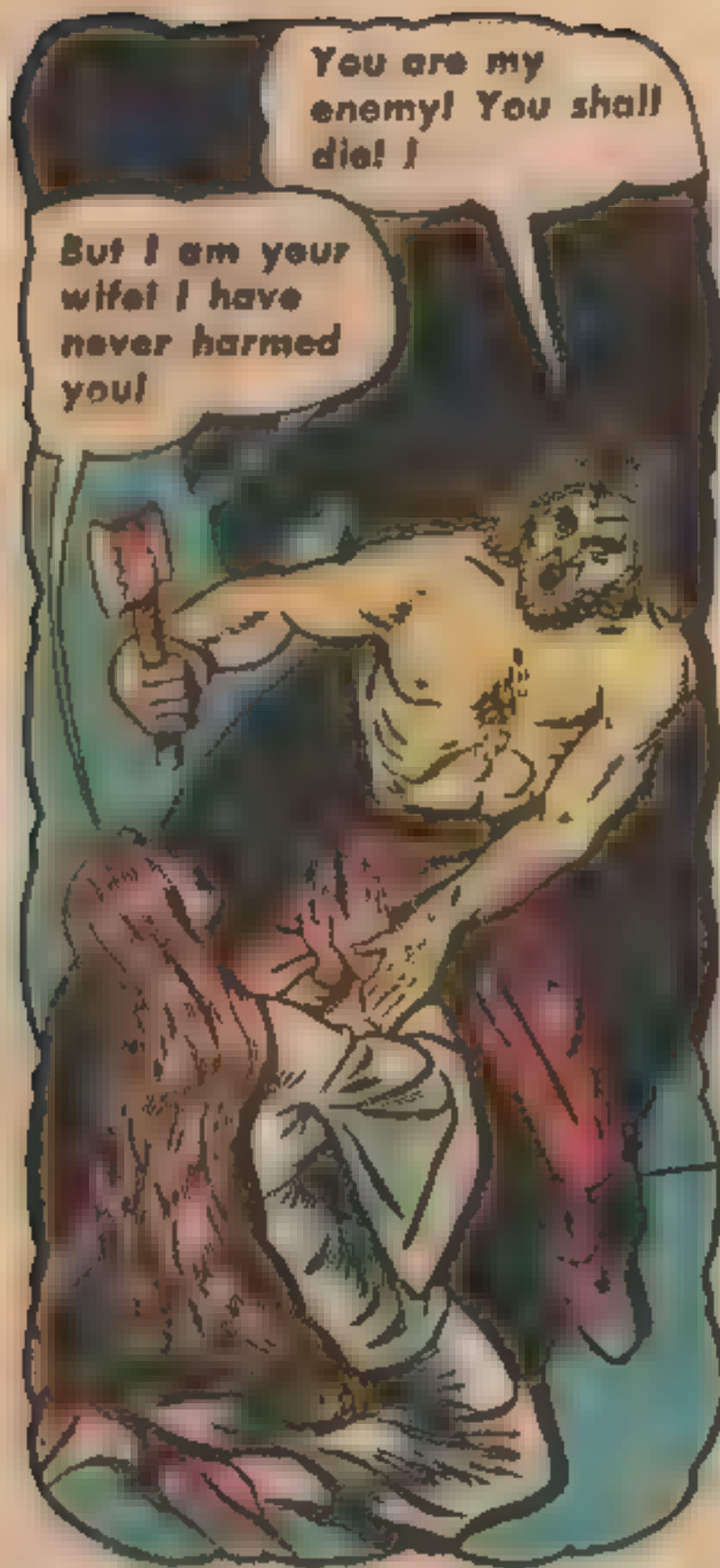
The FLAYED HAND

by GUY DE MAUPASSANT

Illustrated by
ALLEN SIMON

THE FLAYED HAND





THE FLAYED HAND



CLASSICS Illustrated



DIE!
DIE!
DIE!

Get the ax
away from
him!

All my
enemies
shall die!

Look
out!
There
he is!

I'll strangle
you with my
bare hands!

My hand! Oh,
my God! My
hand!

He is dying
from loss of
blood!

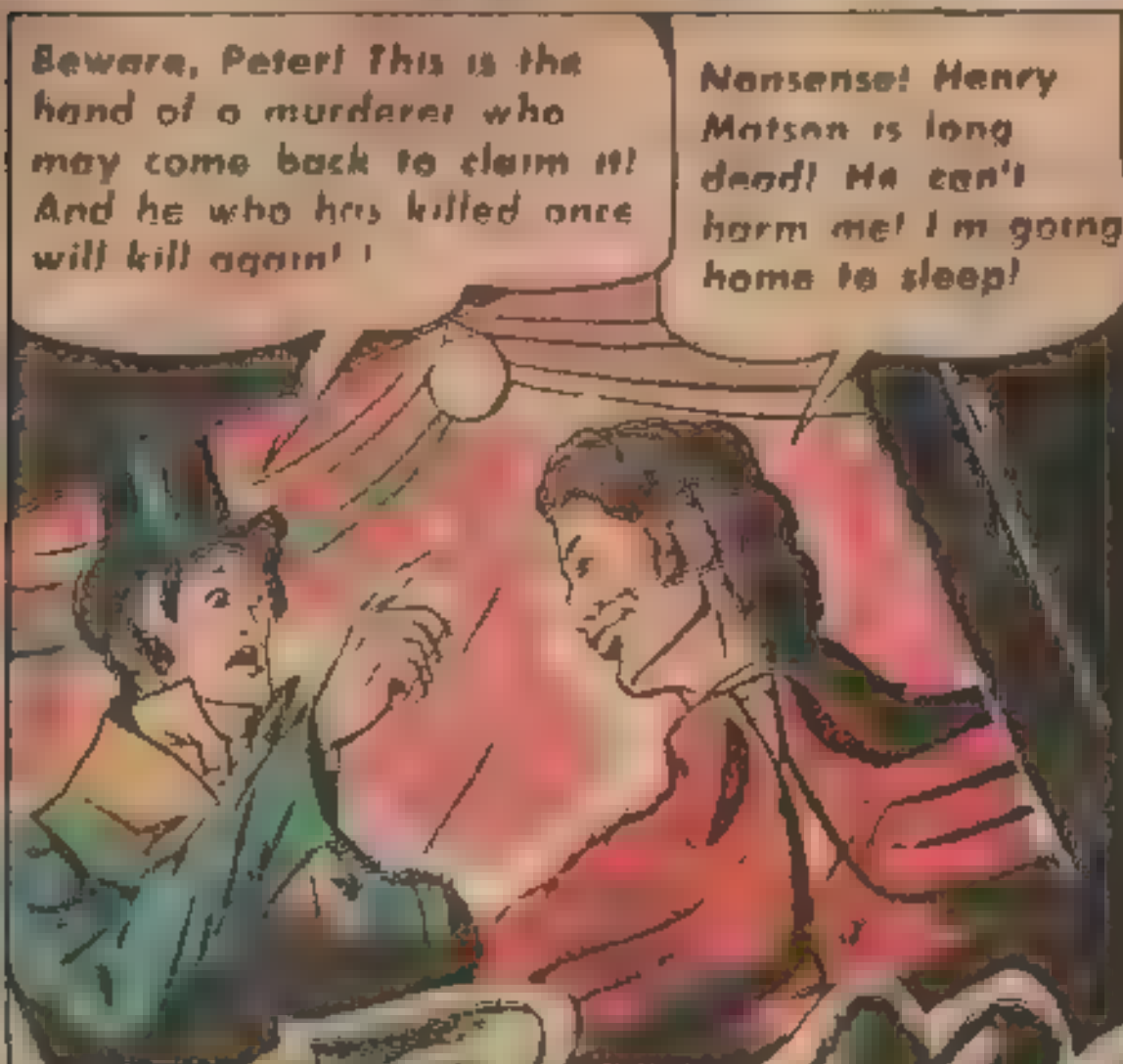
It was his
life or
ours!
There
was
nothing
else to do.

He's
dead!

I shall keep
his hand as
an example
to all
murderers!

I'll come
back! I'll
... I'll ...
Agh!

THE FLAYED HAND



AS PETER WALKED THROUGH THE DARK STREETS THE FORCES OF EVIL GATHERED ABOUT HIM FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH!

CLASSICS Illustrated

WHEN PETER REACHED HIS ROOM . . .

What nonsense! How can the hand of a dead man harm me?



BUT AS HE DOZED OFF . .



Who's here?
Speak up!



There's no one here! Someone is playing a joke!

This is no joke, Peter! Look behind you!



The hand! It's moving! Who are you?

I am the ghost of Henry Matson! I have come from the grave to get my hand!



When I have my Hand again, I shall rest in my grave! But first you will die! You have laughed at me!

NO!
NO!
NO!



THE FLAYED HAND

Diel! All my enemies
diel! Hal! Hal! Hal!

AS PETER'S LIFELESS BODY FELL TO
THE FLOOR, THE HAND
DISAPPEARED! NOTHING MOVED
IN THE ROOM EXCEPT . . . DEATH!

THE NEXT DAY AS LOUIS
AND JOHN CAME TO CALL
FOR PETER . . .

Is anything
wrong?

The young man who lives
here has been found
strangled to death!

What? ?

Poor Peter? Who could
have done this?

That's what we can't understand! No one
could have gotten in, yet there are the
marks of a hand on his throat!

You may well wonder but no one
will ever know the truth! . . . For
the dead never betray their
secrets! Hal! Ha!

Louis! Is it possible? . . .
The hand disappeared!

I wonder! I wonder!

THE END

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

by
EDGAR ALLAN POE

Illustrated by
ARNOLD L. HICKS



AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, RUE MORGUE WAS USUALLY AT PEACE WITH THE WORLD. THE ONLY SOUNDS TO BREAK THE QUIET WERE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT AMATEUR DETECTIVE, DUPIN AND HIS FRIEND, POE. ALL WAS SERENE BUT TONIGHT . . . TWO WOMEN WERE TO DIE . . . BRUTALLY MURDERED ! ! !

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

Your gay Paris is asleep!
Surely this is the most
quiet city in the world,
Dupin!

Paris is a strange city,
Poe! One never knows
what may happen next!

SUDDENLY

What did I tell you? Quickly,
Poe! That's a woman's voice
She must be in terrible danger!

Help!
Don't let him
kill me!

You see, Paris is quick to awake
to trouble! I hope we're not too
late!

Save me!

The door is bolted! We'll have to break it down!

This is Mrs. L'Espanaye's house! It has a stout
door! We'll have to get an old pole to use as a
battering ram!



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

Why . . . there's no one here! I

A razor . . . covered with blood! I



Look! ! There's a woman in the fireplace chimney! !

How horrible! It's the young Miss L'Espanaye! !



Pull hard, men! She is firmly wedged in the chimney! !



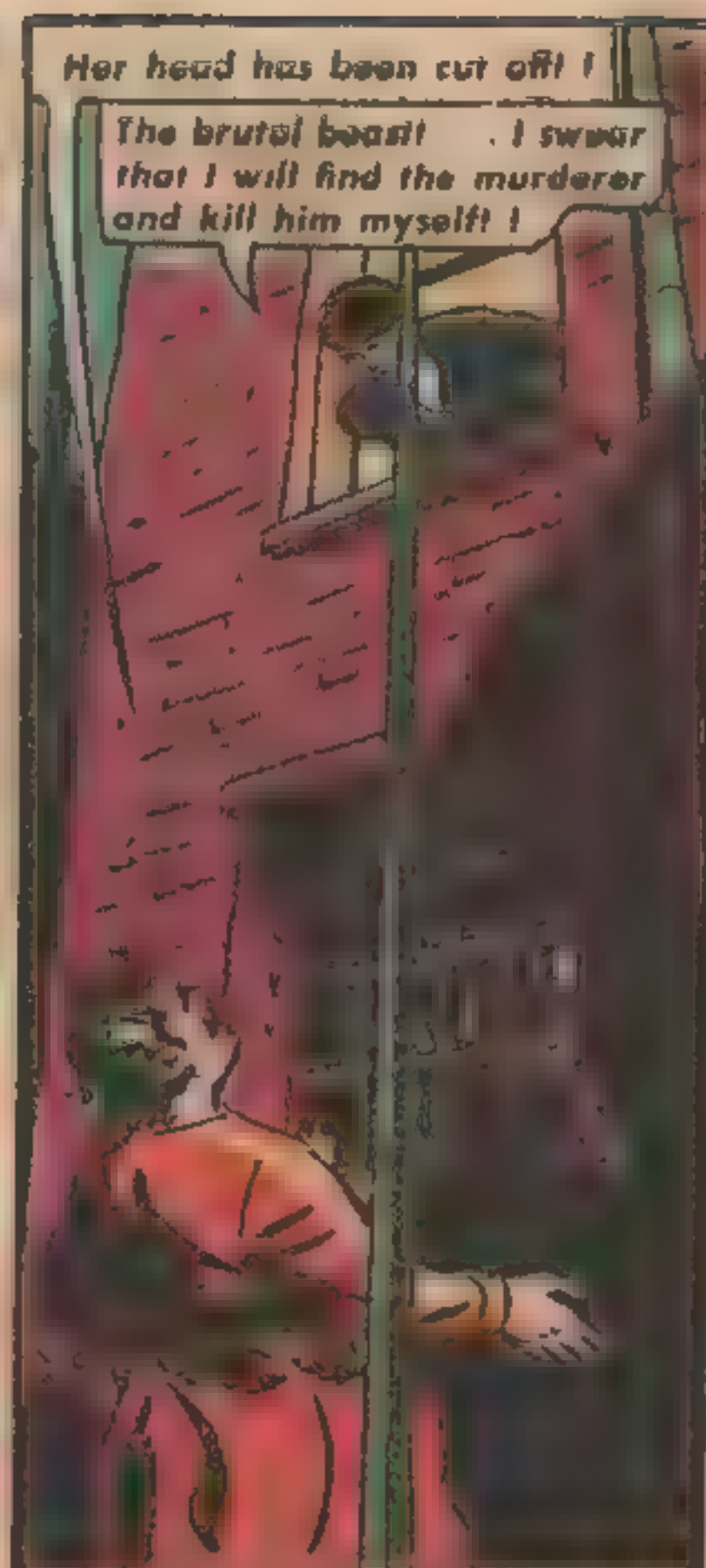
Leave her on the floor! I will examine the body!

I'm afraid to look!

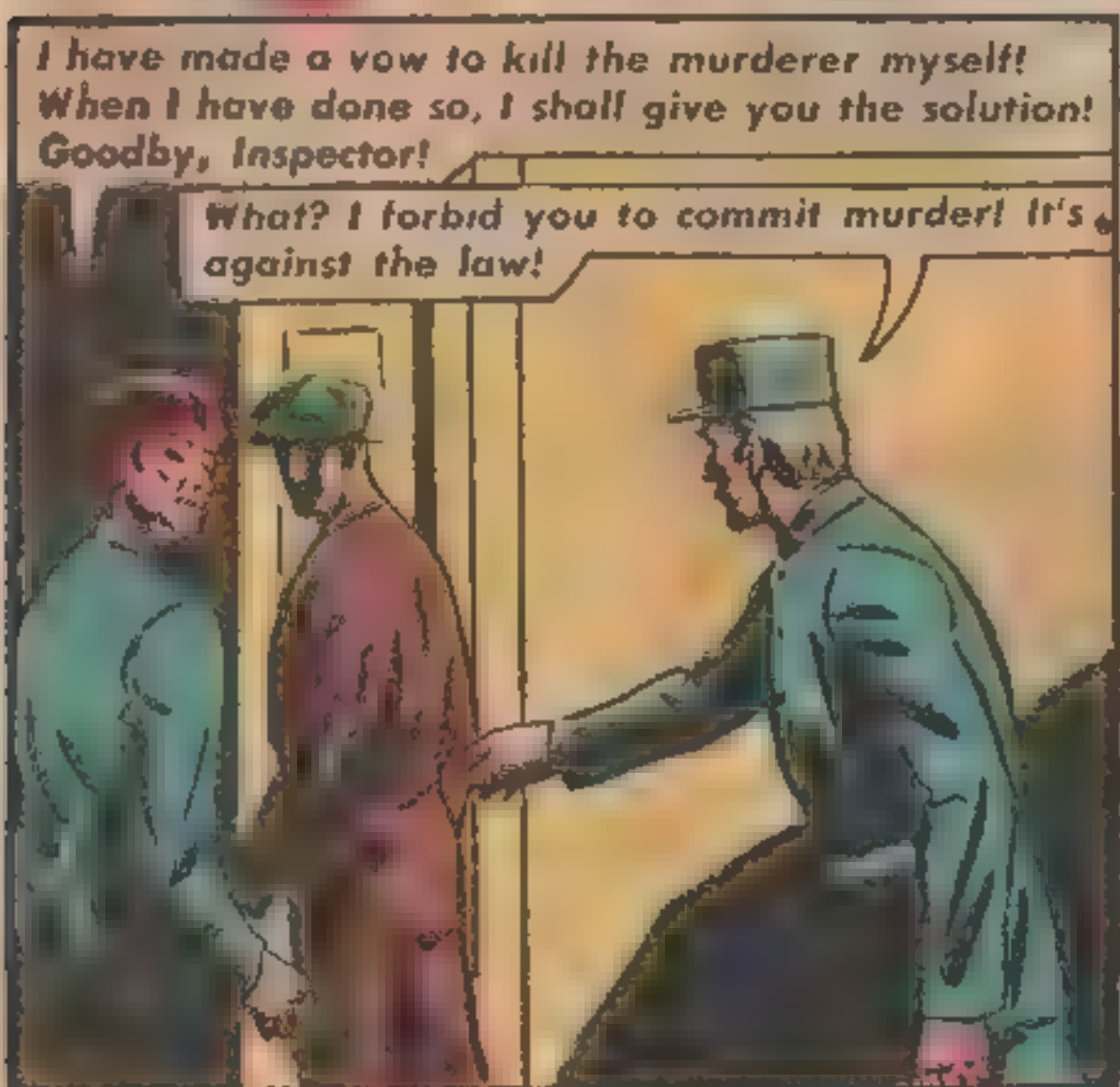


Miss L'Espanaye seems to have been strangled first . . . then her neck was broken! She has been killed by a merciless and very powerful murderer! !





THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE



Then we must capture this ape before there are more murders! What is the first thing to do?

First we shall put an ad in the papers!

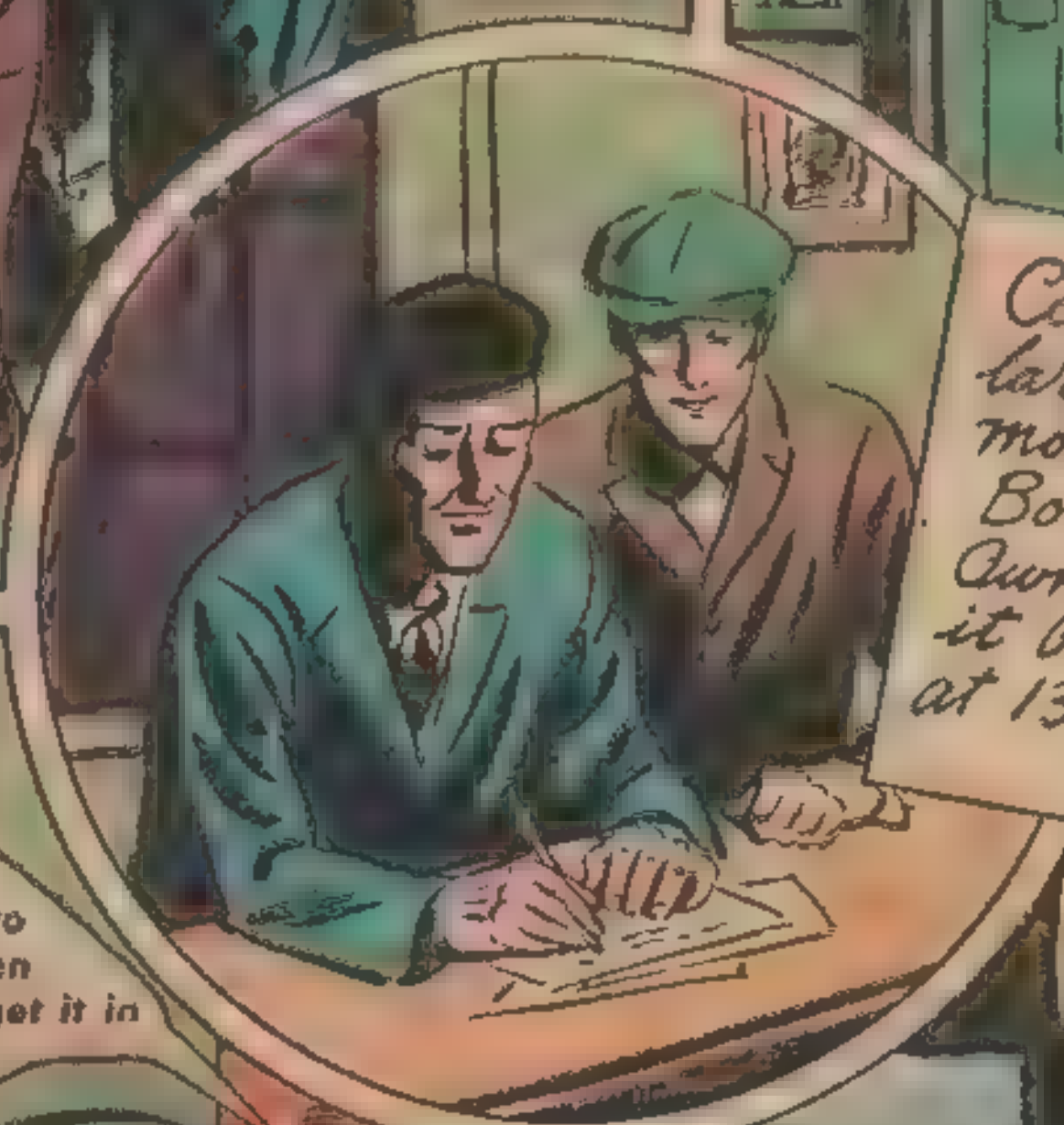


The ape is not from a zoo or we would have heard about it before! Therefore we must try to find the ape's owner! The power of the press will bring him to our doorsteps!

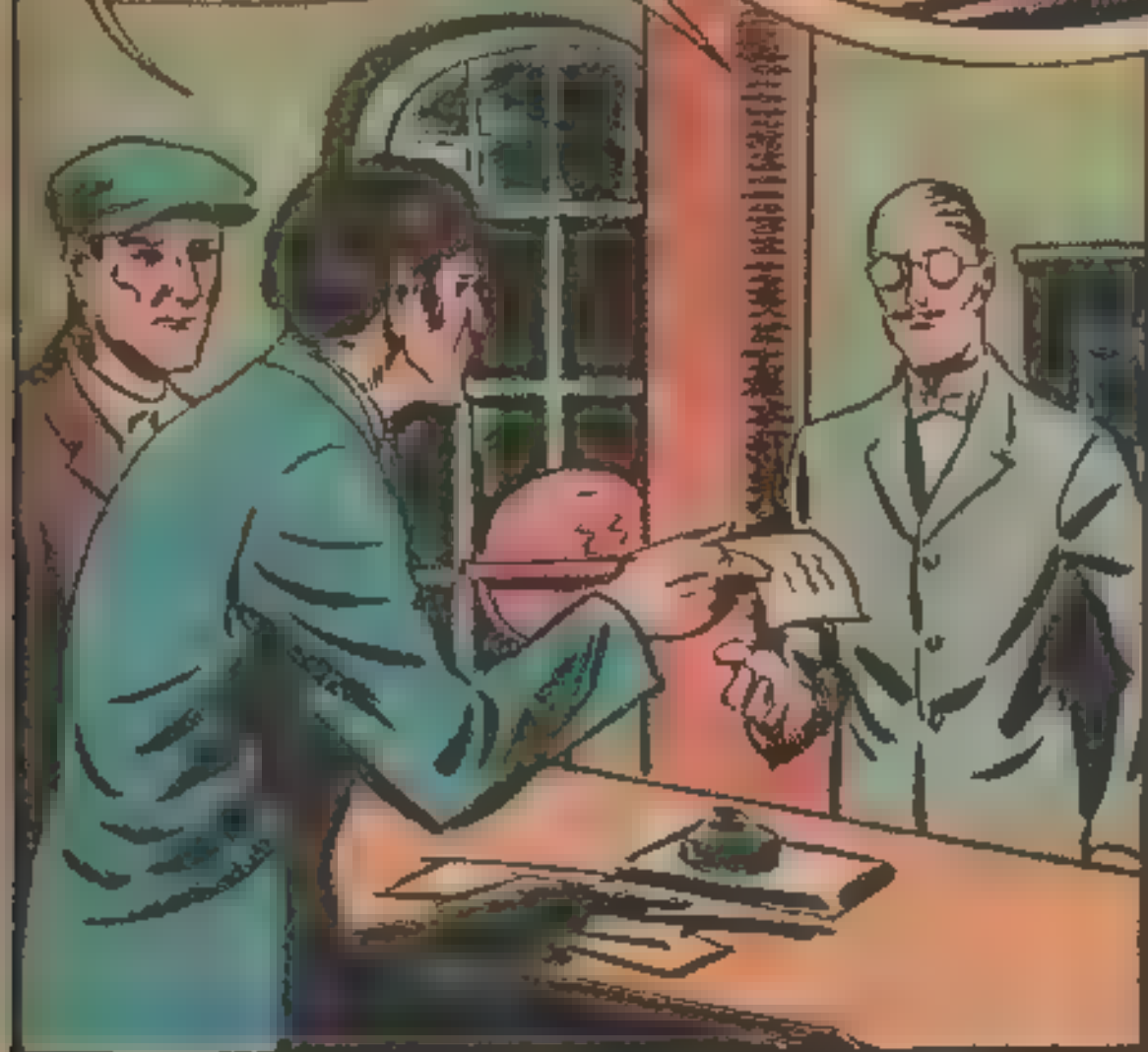


I want this advertisement inserted immediately!

Our next edition goes to press in fifteen minutes! I'll get it in for you, sir!



Now we shall go home and wait for our friend, the owner of the ape, to appear! !



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORCUE

FOUR HOURS LATER

KNOCK! KNOCK!

You have my ape here? I came to get him!

Before we give him to you we would like to know more about him! Please sit down!

Tell us how you happen to own this ape!

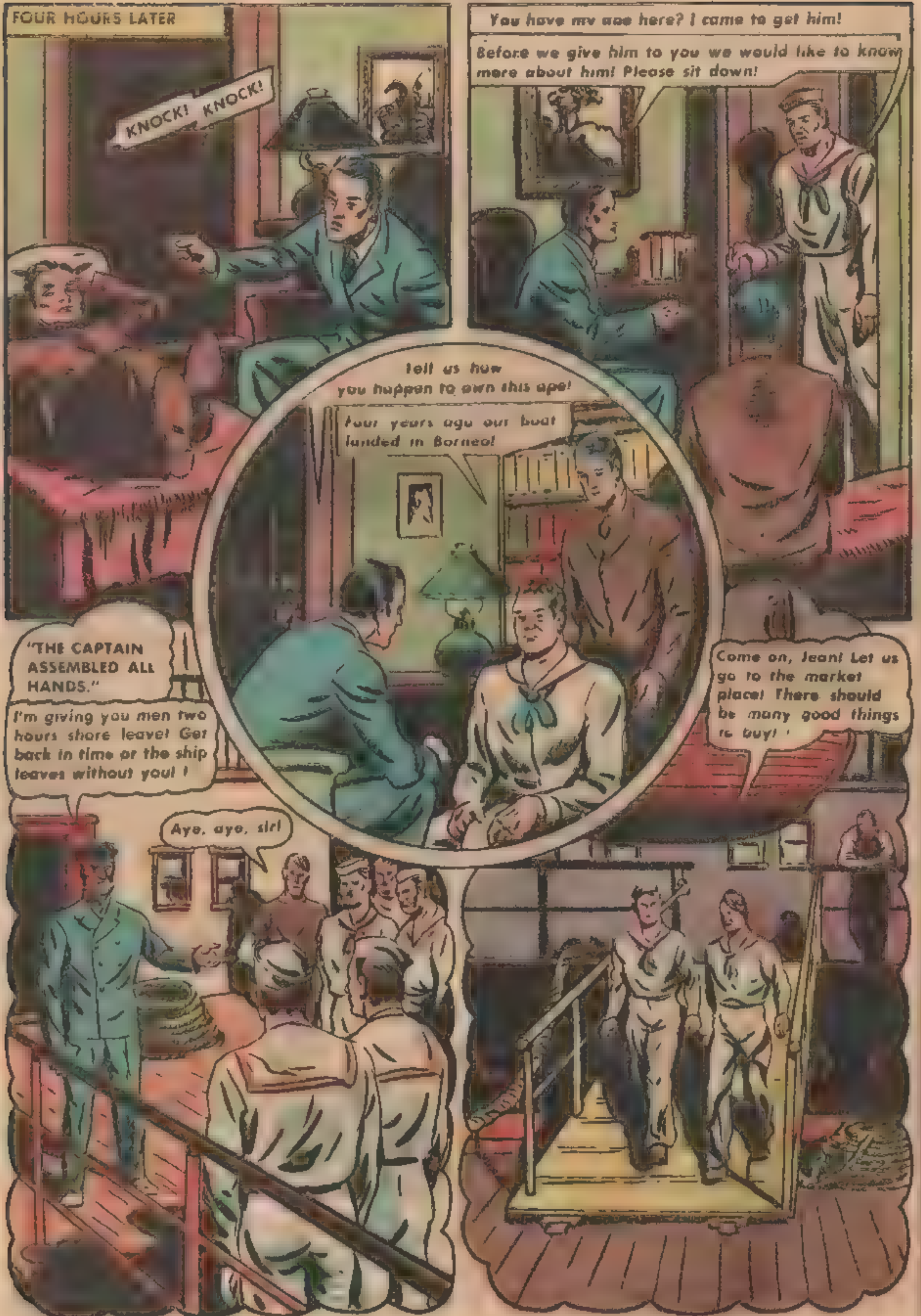
Four years ago our boat landed in Borneo!

"THE CAPTAIN ASSEMBLED ALL HANDS."

I'm giving you men two hours shore leave! Get back in time or the ship leaves without you!

Aye, aye, sir!

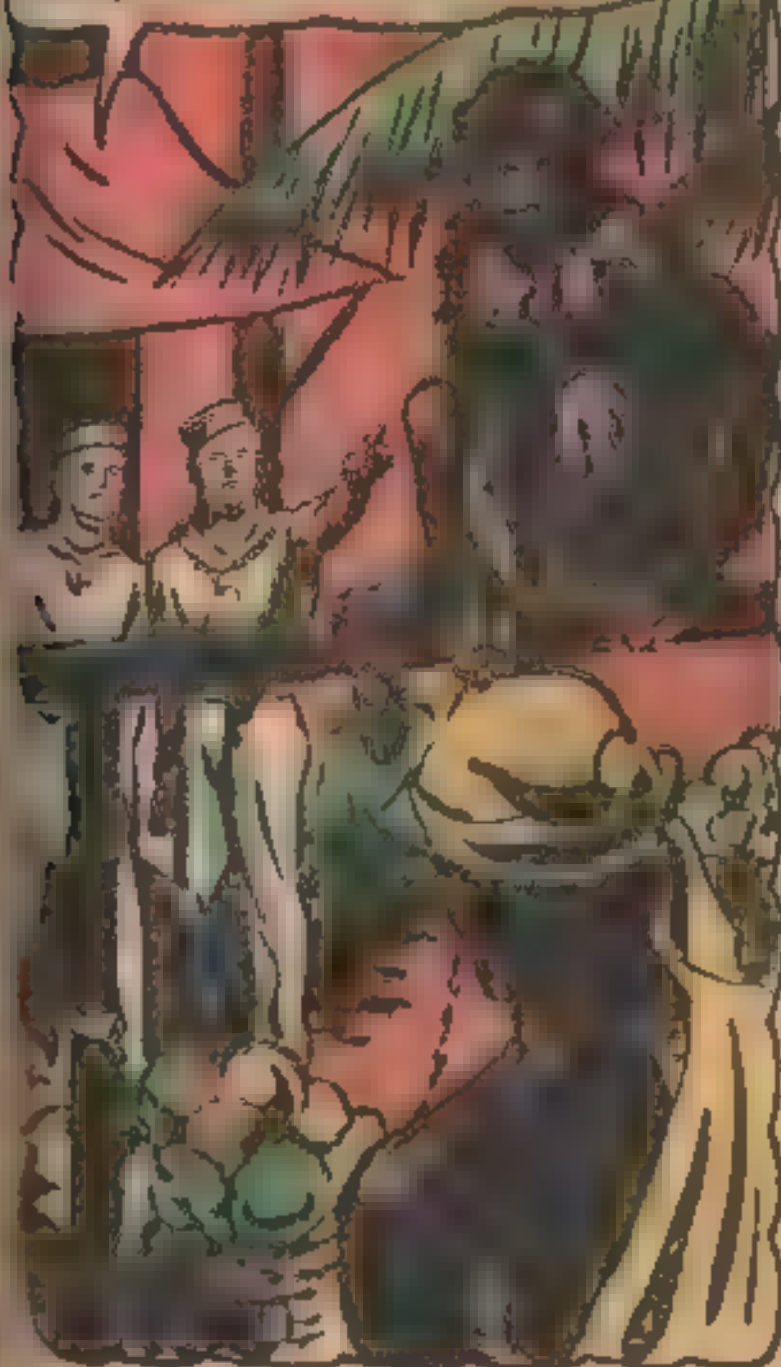
Come on, Jean! Let us go to the market place! There should be many good things to buy!



CLASSICS Illustrated

"WE WENT TO THE MARKET PLACE AND THE FIRST THING I SAW WAS . . ."

Look at that ape! He's a cute little rascal! I'll buy him and keep him as a pet! I



"I BOUGHT THE APE AND KEPT HIM WITH ME ON MY TRAVELS! AS TIME PASSED, HE GREW BIGGER AND STRONGER!"



"ONE OF MY SHIPMATES USED TO TEASE THE APE ALL THE TIME! I WARNED HIM TO STAY AWAY BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN AND . . ."



"ONE DAY HE GOT TOO CLOSE!"

HELP!



Ohhh! My leg is broken!

Jean, your pet is dangerous! Tomorrow we reach Paris. You will leave the ship and take the ape with you! I



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

"HERE, IN PARIS, I KEPT THE APE CHAINED IN MY ROOM! HE WOULD SIT AND WATCH ME FOR HOURS!"



"LAST NIGHT, WHEN I CAME HOME . . .

How did you break loose? Give me the razor!"



"THE BEAST LAUGHED AT ME AND JUMPED OUT OF THE WINDOW . . . HE DISAPPEARED!"



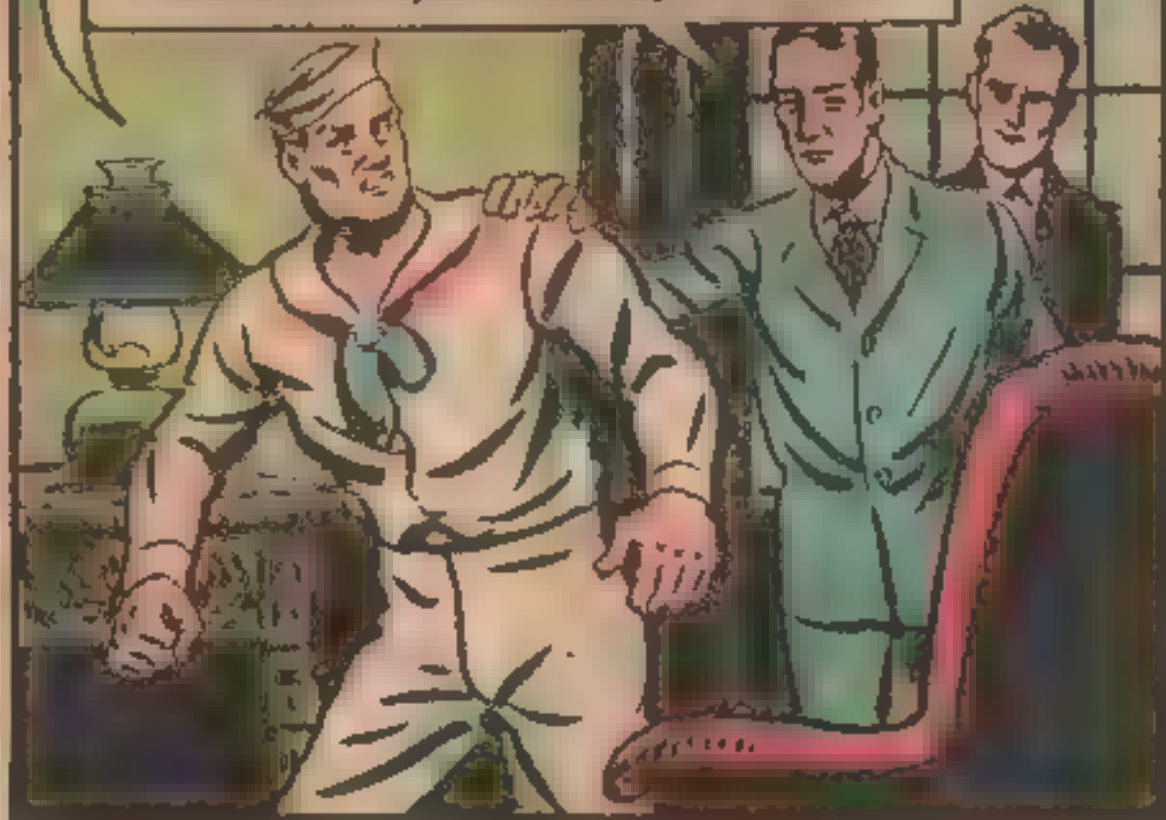
This is the last I saw of him! Where is he?

Monsieur. Last night after escaping, your ape went to the Rue Morgue where he killed two women! And he is still at large! !



Mon dieu! We must find him and kill him quickly before there are more murders! !

That is exactly what we plan to do! !



We had better arm ourselves! We are fighting a dangerous killer! Let's go!



The ape will go where there are trees. We are sure to find him in Boulogne Park! !



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

Let us separate but don't wander off too far! If anyone sees anything, he must call the others!



I'm sure I saw that bush move! I'll move a little closer!



THE APE!!



BUT BEFORE POE COULD FIRE...

Help, Dupin! Help!



CRACK! CRACK!



The beastly killer is dead!! The mystery of the murders in the Rue Morgue is solved!!



THE END

EDGAR ALLAN POE

Born in Boston January 18, 1809, Edgar Poe was orphaned in early childhood. Adopted by John Allan, a wealthy tobacco merchant of Richmond, Virginia, he was brought up in luxury and was a precocious child who could read, dance, draw, and declaim poetry at the age of six. After an unsatisfactory career at the University of Virginia and West Point, Poe embarked on a stormy literary future. His first success came when he won a prize of \$100 for his story, "A Manuscript Found in a Bottle." As editor of the Southern Literary Messenger, he wrote his best tales but gained more attention at that time for his vitriolic criticisms which made him extremely unpopular. In 1841, he published "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," the model of many subsequent detective stories. While connected with the Evening Mirror in New York, he wrote his famous poem, "The Raven," which met with immediate and widespread popularity. Poe's death at the age of forty, after a strange and varied life, was shrouded in mystery. Found unconscious on a street in Baltimore and taken to a hospital, he died the next day, October 7, 1849.



GUY de MAUPASSANT

Guy de Maupassant has had no peer as the perfect master of the short story. Completely divorced from the romantic school of writing, he saw life clearly, objectively, and expressed what he saw in unexcelled prose. He insisted upon using "le mot juste," that is the one word that could express the meaning he sought to convey.

De Maupassant, born in 1850, was the son of a well-to-do Paris stockbroker. He was educated at the Rouen Lycee and attended literary meetings at the home of Gustave Flaubert. There the great names of literature congregated, but the young Maupassant seldom shared in the conversation.

With the publication in 1880 of his short story, "Boule de Suif," Guy de Maupassant revealed himself as an expert writer of prose and a consummate master of the story. He repeated this success again and again in his subsequent works, and though his critics often objected to his subject matter, they were unable to deny his brilliant mastery of his art. Whether it be a short story, a travel book, or an elaborate novel, it never fell short of his incomparable genius.



CONAN DOYLE

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, English novelist, was born on May 22, 1859, the eldest son of the Artist Charles Doyle. Educated in England, Germany, and Edinburgh, Scotland, where he graduated as a doctor of medicine in 1885. While practising medicine he wrote "A Study in Scarlet," in which he first introduced his famous character, Sherlock Holmes.

In 1891, Conan Doyle published "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," which achieved instant and enormous popularity. These ingenious stories of detecting crime and disentangling mysteries, cleverly conceived by a man of science, found many imitators, but none that ever equalled the original. Doyle returned to his hero in "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes," "The Hound of the Baskervilles," and "The Return of Sherlock Holmes."

In addition to these, Doyle wrote many novels and plays. He served as a doctor in South Africa during the Boer War, was knighted in 1902, and died in 1930. With all his many accomplishments, the fame of Conan Doyle will rest most securely on the interesting character of the gentleman of Baker Street.





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